

Chapter 16: Landscape and Visual

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16. Landscape and Visual

16.1 Introduction

- 16.1.1 This Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report chapter presents the preliminary assessment of likely significant environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development in relation to landscape and visual amenity. This preliminary assessment follows the methodology outlined within the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion (provided in **Appendices 5-PD-1** and **5-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 4**) and is based on the environmental information obtained to date and the description of the Proposed Development as presented in **Chapter 3: The Proposed Development** in PEI Report **Volume 2**. Further review of the potential for significant landscape and visual effects will be undertaken at the Environmental Statement (ES) stage and assessed if required.
- 16.1.2 Supporting information, including figures and appendices are listed in **Table 16-1**.

Table 16-1: Supporting documentation

Reference	Title
<i>Figures (provided in PEI Report Volume 3)</i>	
Figure 16-PD-1	Parts 1, 2, 3 & 4 Topography
Figure 16-PD-2	Parts 1, 2, 3 & 4 National Landscape Character
Figure 16-P1A-1	Part 1a Regional Landscape Character
Figure 16-P1A-2	Part 1a Filter Building Zone of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features)
Figure 16-P1A-3	Part 1a Landscape Designations and Viewpoint Locations
Figure 16-P1B-1	Part 1b Regional Landscape Character
Figure 16-P1B-2	Part 1b Landscape Designations and Viewpoint Locations
Figure 16-P1B-3	Part 1b Pipeline Corridor Zone of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features)
Figure 16-P1B-4	Part 1b Break-Pressure Tank Zone of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features)
Figure 16-P2&3-1	Parts 2 & 3 Above Ground Infrastructure Zones of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features)
Figure 16-P2&3-2	Part 2 & 3 Pipeline Corridor Zones of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features)
Figure 16-P2,3&4-1	Parts 2, 3 & 4 Regional Landscape Character
Figure 16-P2,3&4-2	Parts 2, 3 & 4 Landscape Designations and Viewpoint Locations
Figure 16-P4A-1	Part 4a – Galley Water Treatment Works Zone of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features)

Reference	Title
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Figure 16-VP-2	Viewpoint 2: PRoW within the River Tame Valley
Figure 16-VP-3	Viewpoint 3: PRoW along the Western Edge of Curdworth
Figure 16-VP-4	Viewpoint 4: PRoW off Dexter Lane
Figure 16-VP-5	Viewpoint 5: Lea Bridge over the River Tame
Figure 16-VP-6	Viewpoint 6: PRoW off Water Orton Lane
Figure 16-VP-8	Viewpoint 8: Outwoods Bridge (no.38) over Coventry Canal
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Figure 16-VP-10	Viewpoint 10: Coventry Canal Towpath, Eastern Edge of Hawkesbury Village
Figure 16-VP-11	Viewpoint 11: Wyken Arm Junction Bridge over the Oxford Canal
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Figure 16-VP-14	Viewpoint 14: Burtons Bridge (no.71) along The Locks over the Oxford Canal
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Figure 16-VP-18	Viewpoint 18: Northern Edge of Drayton Reservoir, Northwestern Edge of Daventry
Figure 16-VP-19	Viewpoint 19: Canal Lock at George Lane, Grand Union Canal
Figure 16-VP-20	Viewpoint 20: Towpath alongside the Grand Union Canal
Figure 16-VP-22	Viewpoint 22: Junction of Rural Lane off the A508 and Farm Track
Figure 16-VP-23	Viewpoint 23: Towpath near Canal Lock at Cosgrove Marina, Western Edge of Cosgrove
Figure 16-VP-24	Viewpoint 24: Towpath along the Grand Union Canal, Eastern Edge of Fenny Stratford
Figure 16-VP-25	Viewpoint 25: PRoW off the A4146 and Galley Lane Roundabout.
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Figure 16-VP-27	Viewpoint 27: PRoW near Fox Farm Equestrian

Reference	Title
Figure 16-VP-28	Viewpoint 28: PRoW at Edge of Arable Land
Figure 16-VP-29	Viewpoint 29: PRoW on Elevated Ground near Eaton Bray
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<i>Appendices (provided in PEI Report Volume 4)</i>	
Appendix 16-PD-1	Consultation
Appendix 16-PD-2	Landscape and Amenity Methodology
Appendix 16-PD-3	Potential Representative Viewpoints

16.1.3 There are interrelationships between the potential effects on landscape and visual amenity and other environmental topics. Therefore, please also refer to the following:

- a. **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage** in PEI Report **Volume 2**, which reports on impacts to designated and non-designated heritage assets for built heritage, archaeology and historic landscape character;
- b. **Chapter 12: Ecology – Aquatic** in PEI Report **Volume 2**, which reports on impacts to aquatic ecology;
- c. **Chapter 13: Ecology – Terrestrial** in PEI Report **Volume 2**, which reports on impacts to terrestrial ecology;
- d. **Chapter 15: Human Health** in PEI Report **Volume 2**, which reports on impacts to human health including landscape and visual amenity as a health determinant; and
- e. **Chapter 19: Noise and Vibration** in PEI Report **Volume 2**, which reports on the likely noise and vibration impacts, and sets out mitigation measures that could be adopted, that have landscape and visual implications, such as acoustic barriers and or earth bunds.

16.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

16.2.1 Legislation, policy¹, standards and guidance relating to the scope method and potential mitigation for landscape and visual impacts comprises of the documents listed in the following sections.

Legislative Framework

16.2.2 Relevant legislation considered comprises:

- a. The applicable legislation is the European Landscape Convention 2000 (Ref. 1), which has informed the assessment methodology and the identification of sensitive receptors described in this chapter; and
- b. Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 ('CROW Act') (Ref. 2) places a duty on relevant authorities to seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of a National Landscape (NL)² which will inform enhancement measures within the Chilterns NL.

National Policy

16.2.3 National policy considered includes:

- a. National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure (NPSWRI) (Ref. 3); and
- b. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref. 4).

Local Policy

16.2.4 Local policy considered includes relevant Local Plans (both adopted and emerging) and other adopted policy documents attributed with the ten local authorities that the Proposed Development would be situated within. More detail is provided in Table 1-4 in **Chapter 1: Introduction** in PEI Report **Volume 2**.

¹ For the purposes of this PEI Report an overview of relevant policy is provided to show how relevant policy has informed scope, method and in some cases mitigation. It is not the purpose of the PEI Report (or the ES) to present a review of the compliance of the Proposed Development with the requirements of policy. The Planning Statement, to be submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, will present an assessment of the extent to which the Proposed Development accords with policy.

² Formerly referred to as 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' (AONB) of which the term remains in statute.

Other Guidance

16.2.5 Other guidance considered includes:

- a. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) Green Belt (Ref. 5);
- b. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) Natural Environment (Ref. 6);
- c. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Ref. 7);
- d. Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Ref. 8);
- e. An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 9);
- f. Assessing landscape value outside national designations, Technical Guidance Note 02/21 (Ref. 10);
- g. Infrastructure: Technical Guidance Note 04/2020 (Ref. 11);
- h. Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (Ref. 12); and
- i. Tranquillity – An overview, Technical Information Note 01/2017 (Revised) (Ref. 13).

16.3 Consultation

16.3.1 This section provides an overview of consultation undertaken to date in relation to landscape and visual impacts.

Phase One Public Consultation

16.3.2 A summary of the key topics raised from Phase One Public Consultation³. undertaken between 11 September to 25 October 2024 with regards to landscape and visual impacts is provided below:

- a. Impacts on local residents in relation to the Minworth Advance Water Treatment Plant (AWTP) structure (part of Part 1a);
- b. Impacts on local residents in relation to the Break Pressure Tank (BPT) structure (part of Part 1b);
- c. Siting and design of new canal infrastructure (Part 2), and its appropriateness in relation to local character;

³ A Phase One Public Consultation Report has been made available at Phase Two Public Consultation. A consultation report will also to be submitted with the DCO application, which will set out activities undertaken to deliver the consultation (including the technical bodies consultation at this stage). It will provide a summary of the key themes and issues raised, and how the project has considered these.

- d. Impacts on local residents in relation to the Water Treatment Works (WTW) (part of Part 4a);
- e. Consideration of designated landscapes including the Chilterns NL, Registered Parks and Gardens (RPG) and Areas of Attractive Landscape or Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV), identified by local authorities; and
- f. Impacts on rural landscape character.

16.3.3 These topics have been taken into consideration for this assessment of the Proposed Development.

EIA Scoping

16.3.4 **Appendix 16-PD-1** in PEI Report **Volume 4** provides a summary of the key comments raised in the EIA Scoping Opinion (provided in **Appendix 5-PD-2** of PEI Report **Volume 4**), such as amending the original scope or request for further justification / evidence to agree the EIA scope. It also outlines how and where these issues have been addressed within the PEI Report or will be later addressed within the ES to ensure they are taken account of as part of the landscape and visual assessment.

16.3.5 Where the EIA Scoping Opinion has resulted in amendment to the scope of the landscape and visual assessment (or where further justification or evidence is required to confirm an effect can remain scoped out), this has been presented in section 16.4.

16.3.6 The scope of the landscape and visual assessment is presented in **Table 16-2**.

Other consultation

16.3.7 No other consultation beyond EIA Scoping has been undertaken as no consultees have specifically requested further engagement on landscape and visual impacts at this stage.

16.4 Scope of Assessment

16.4.1 This section identifies the scope of the landscape and visual assessment following EIA Scoping and subsequent consultation, design refinement, surveys, studies and assessment.

Amendments to Scope Following EIA Scoping

Matters Scoped Out

16.4.2 Following the EIA Scoping process, the following effects are now scoped out of the EIA. The evidence to support this conclusion is outlined below:

- a. An assessment of likely significant landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development (Part 1b) during operation Year 1 and Year 15.

This is as a result of the identified impacts at construction resulting in minor impacts on landscape characteristics with no potential for greater impacts to arise during operation. Therefore, there is unlikely to be significant effects upon the landscape during operation of Part 1b; and

- b. An assessment of likely significant landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development (Part 4b, outside of the Chilterns NL) during operation Year 1 and Year 15. This is as a result of the identified impacts at construction resulting in minor impacts on landscape characteristics with no potential for greater impacts to arise during operation. Therefore, there is unlikely to be significant effects upon the landscape during operation of Part 4b.

Matters Scoped In

16.4.3 Following the EIA Scoping process, the following effects are considered likely to be significant, resulting in the effect(s) being scoped into the EIA. Therefore, this chapter includes:

- a. An assessment of likely significant landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development (Parts 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4a and 4b) during construction;
- b. An assessment of likely significant landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development for Parts 1a, 2, 3 and 4a (above ground structures) during operation Year 1 and Year 15;
- c. And assessment of likely significant landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development for Part 4b which lies within the NL (pipeline);
- d. An assessment of likely significant visual effects on identified representative viewpoints as a result of the Proposed Development (Parts 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4a and 4b) during construction, operation Year 1 and Year 15; and
- e. An assessment of the impacts of lighting on visual amenity will be included for operation Year 1 and Year 15 assessments within the ES, as the design develops.

Scope of Assessment

16.4.4 **Table 16-2** summarises the scope of the landscape and visual assessment, on the basis of the potential for significant effects identified during the EIA Scoping process. The table uses the following coding:

- a. In = refers to likely impacts that are considered potentially significant and therefore do require further assessment in the EIA;

- b. Out = refers to likely impacts that are not considered potentially significant and therefore do not require further assessment in the EIA; and
- c. n/a = refers to where there is no prospect of an effect from a particular Proposed Development Part(s), either due to the particular nature or location of the Proposed Development Part and/or the absence of a receptor within the study area for that particular Proposed Development Part.

Table 16-2: Summary of landscape and visual assessment scope

Likely significant impact	Receptor(s)	Proposed Development Parts					
		1a	1b	2	3	4a	4b
Construction Phase							
Long-term temporary impacts on physical and perceptual landscape characteristics within the Indicative Works Area	National Character Areas / Landscape Character Types / Landscape Character Areas / National Landscape	In	In	In	In	In	In
Long-term temporary effects on visual amenity	Identified visual receptors	In	In	In	In	In	In
Operational Phase							
Long-term impacts on physical and perceptual landscape characteristics within the Indicative Works Area for permanent above ground structures.	National Character Areas / Landscape Character Types / Landscape Character Areas /	In	Out	In	In	In	Out

Likely significant impact	Receptor(s)	Proposed Development Parts					
		1a	1b	2	3	4a	4b
	National Landscape						
Long-term impacts on physical and perceptual landscape characteristics within the Indicative Works Area for the pipeline route.	National Character Areas / Landscape Character Types / Landscape Character Areas	N/A	Out	N/A	N/A	N/A	Out
Long-term impacts on physical and perceptual landscape characteristics within the Indicative Works Area for the pipeline route, within the Chilterns NL.	National Character Areas / Landscape Character Types / Landscape Character Areas / National Landscape	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In
Long-term effects on visual amenity for permanent above ground structures.	Identified visual receptors	In	In	In	In	In	N/A
Long-term effects on visual amenity for the pipeline route, outside the Chilterns NL.	Identified visual receptors	N/A	In	N/A	In	N/A	In

Likely significant impact	Receptor(s)	Proposed Development Parts					
		1a	1b	2	3	4a	4b
Long-term effects on visual amenity for the pipeline route, within the Chilterns NL.	Identified visual receptors inside the Chilterns NL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In

16.5 Assessment Methodology

- 16.5.1 This section presents the methodology used to assess potential landscape and visual effects during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development.
- 16.5.2 A detailed description of the assessment methodology is included in **Appendix 16-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 4** and is summarised below.

Defining the Study Area

- 16.5.3 For the purposes of the assessment, the study area has been determined by the potential visibility of the Proposed Development in the surrounding landscape and is proportionate to the size and scale of the Proposed Development and nature of the surrounding landscape. Current guidance in GLVIA3 states that the study area should include *“the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the Proposed Development may influence in a significant manner”* (Ref. 7).
- 16.5.4 For the purposes of this assessment, the study area has been defined by a combination of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis (see below) and professional judgement. **Table 16-3** provides a summary of the study areas by Proposed Development Part. The Study Areas will be further refined for inclusion in the ES.

Table 16-3: Summary of study areas for the landscape and visual assessment

Proposed Development Part	Study area
1a: Minworth AWTP	5 km radius from Part 1a Preliminary Order Limits.
1b: Minworth to Atherstone Pipeline	1 km either side of the Part 1b Preliminary Order Limits including the BPT.
2: Works to the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union Canals	1 km either side of Part 2 EIA Preliminary Order Limits, related to the Indicative Work Area sections only.
3: Works to Daventry and Drayton Reservoirs	1 km either side or around the Part 3 Preliminary Order Limits.
4a: Abstraction, Storage and Treatment	2 km either side of the Part 4a EIA Preliminary Order Limits of the reservoir and WTW.
4b: Pipeline to an existing Underground Reservoir near Luton	1 km either side from Part 4b EIA Preliminary Order Limits.

Determining Baseline Conditions

16.5.5 **Table 16-4** provides an overview of the baseline studies and surveys undertaken to inform the landscape and visual assessment. The table uses the following coding:

- a. ✓ = Completed;
- b. O = To be completed for the ES; and
- c. n/a = Baseline study / survey is not applicable for that Part of the Proposed Development.

Table 16-4: Summary of baseline landscape and visual impacts studies and surveys

Study / survey	Overview	Date completed	Proposed Development Part					
			1a	1b	2	3	4a	4b
Desktop review	A desktop review was undertaken to identify potential existing sensitive receptors to inform the definition of the Study Areas and location of representative viewpoints.	January 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Viewpoint survey ⁴	Summer photography undertaken at the identified viewpoint locations as presented on Figure 16-P1A-3, Figure 16-P1B-2, and Figure 16-P2,3&4-2 in PEI Report Volume 3 .	September 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

⁴ Winter photography to be undertaken and included in the ES.

Methodology for Determining Effects

- 16.5.6 Baseline data has been gathered from a study of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and aerial photographs, publicly available documents such as landscape character assessment documents from local authorities and national character mapping available from Natural England (Ref. 14). In addition, site visits were undertaken across the extent of the Proposed Development on 16 September and 23 to 24 September 2025, during late summer and early autumn when trees were still in leaf, to inform an understanding of the existing landscape character and visual context.

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

- 16.5.7 Landscape receptors are described as components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. These can include overall character and key characteristics, individual elements or features, and specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects. It is the interaction between the different components of the Proposed Development and these landscape receptors which has potential to result in landscape effects (both adverse and beneficial).
- 16.5.8 The overall sensitivity assessment of the landscape receptor has been made by applying professional judgement to combine and analyse the identified value and susceptibility ratings. Overall sensitivity has been rated as very high, high, medium, low and very low. **Table 16-5** outlines indicators that inform landscape value, susceptibility and sensitivity. **Table 16-6** below outlines the levels of sensitivity with descriptions. The basis of the assessment is made clear in the evaluation of each landscape receptor. The basis of the assessment is made clear in the evaluation of each landscape receptor.

Table 16-5: Indicators of value and susceptibility for landscape receptors

Value / Susceptibility	Higher Sensitivity Indicators	Lower Sensitivity Indicators
Value	A nationally designated landscape and/or a landscape in very good condition, recognised associations, exceptional scenic quality, very high recreational opportunities, a very high degree of distinctiveness, with very strong perceptual aspects and/or very important natural and cultural heritage features and functional qualities.	An undesignated landscape and/or landscape containing few if any notable elements / features, of poor condition or containing several detracting features and limited aesthetic qualities. Landscapes which have limited recognised associations, recreational opportunities, natural and cultural heritage features and/or functional qualities.

Value / Susceptibility	Higher Sensitivity Indicators	Lower Sensitivity Indicators
Susceptibility	Attributes that make up the character of the landscape which offer very limited opportunities to accommodate change of the type proposed without fundamentally altering key characteristics.	Attributes that make up the character of the landscape which are tolerant of a large degree of the type of change proposed without fundamentally altering the key characteristics.

Table 16-6: Sensitivity of landscape receptors

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria Descriptors
Very high	Landscape of national value with distinctive elements and characteristics, highly susceptible to small changes of the type of development proposed, which it would not be able to accommodate without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Typically, these would be: • of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character and sense of place; • designated and the aspects which underpin such value may also be present outside the designated areas, especially at the local scale; • areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations; and • likely to contain features and elements that are rare and could not be replaced.
High	Landscape of national or regional value, with some distinctive elements and characteristics and other characteristics that may be more common place, which by nature of their character are unlikely to be able to accommodate change of the type proposed without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline. Typically, these would be: • some distinctive elements and features and some more common place making a positive contribution to character and sense of place; • likely to be designated, but the aspects which underpin such value may also be present outside designated areas, especially at the local scale; • containing features of value through use, perception, or historic and cultural associations; and • likely to contain some features and elements that are rare and could not be replaced.
Medium	Landscape of regional or local value, with mostly common elements and characteristics, which, by nature of their character, would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline. Typically, these would be:

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria Descriptors
	- comprised of mostly commonplace elements and features but may include some rarer elements and with some sense of place; - locally designated, or value may be expressed through non-statutory local publications or relevant Neighbourhood Plan policies; - containing some features of value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations; and - likely to contain some features and elements that could not be replaced.
Low	Landscape of local or limited value and relatively inconsequential elements and characteristics, the nature of which is potentially tolerant of substantial change of the type proposed. Typically, these would be: - comprised of some features and elements that are discordant, derelict or in decline, resulting in indistinct character with little or no sense of place; - not designated; - containing few, if any, features of value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations; and - likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced.
Very low	Landscape of very low or limited value that is damaged, degraded or a substantially modified landscape pattern, with few or no natural or original features remaining, such that it is tolerant of the type of change proposed without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

16.5.9 Sensitivity of visual receptors has been defined through an appraisal of the viewing expectation, or value placed on the view as identified in the baseline study, and its susceptibility to change.

16.5.10 The value of the view has been classified as very high, high, medium, low and very low and is supported by evidenced, professional judgements.

16.5.11 The overall sensitivity assessment of the visual receptor has been determined by applying professional judgement to combine and analyse the identified value and susceptibility ratings. Overall visual sensitivity has been rated as very high, high, medium, low and very low. **Table 16-7** outlines indicators that inform value of the view, susceptibility and sensitivity of visual receptors. **Table 16-8** below outlines the levels of sensitivity with descriptions. The basis of the assessment is made clear in the evaluation of each visual receptor.

Table 16-7: Value and susceptibility indicators of for visual receptors

Value / Susceptibility	Higher Sensitivity Indicators	Lower Sensitivity Indicators
Value	Views protected by designation, or nationally recognised, or recorded on maps / guidebooks or with cultural associations. Views that have high scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view.	Views which are not documented or protected with minimal or no cultural associations. Views that exhibit low scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view.
Susceptibility	Viewers whose attention or interest is focused on their surroundings; Residential properties, settlements and moorings ⁵ where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents; and People engaged in outdoor recreation including users of cycle routes, recreational routes and visitors to heritage assets where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience.	People whose attention or interest is not focused on their surroundings and where the view is incidental to their enjoyment; People travelling more rapidly on major roads, rail or transport routes not recognised as scenic routes; People engaged in outdoor recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape; and People at their place of work whose attention is not on their surroundings.

Table 16-8: Sensitivity of visual receptors

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria Descriptors
Very high	Activity resulting in a focused interest or appreciation of the view (e.g. residents at home or people engaged in outdoor recreation whose attention is focused on the landscape). Where people might visit purely to experience an iconic or highly valued view; and/or a view of national value (e.g. within / towards a designated landscape) with very high scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view.
High	Activity resulting in a particular interest or appreciation of the view (e.g. residents at home or people engaged in outdoor recreation whose attention is focused on the landscape, which is an important part of the experience. Where people may be passing through the

⁵ The glossary defines various types of moorings provided along the Trust's network. The types of moorings to be assessed as sensitive receptors for landscape and visual impacts will be considered and addressed in the ES.

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria Descriptors
	landscape on defined scenic routes and/or a highly valued or well composed view with high scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view (e.g. locally designated view within a local plan or neighbourhood plan).
Medium	Activity resulting in a general interest or appreciation of the view (e.g. residents or people engaged in outdoor recreation that does not largely focus on the appreciation of the landscape and/or a view of local value with some scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view (e.g. typical agricultural landscape with some detracting features).
Low	Activity where interest or appreciation of the view is secondary to the activity or the period of exposure to the view is limited (e.g. people at work, motorists travelling through the area or people engaged in outdoor recreation that does not focus on an appreciation of the landscape) and/or a view of limited value with low scenic qualities relating to the content of and composition of the view (e.g. featureless agricultural landscape, poor quality urban fringe).
Very low	Activity where interest or appreciation of the view is inconsequential (e.g. people at work) and/or very low value of existing view (e.g. industrial areas or derelict land).

Magnitude of Landscape Impact

16.5.12 Landscape magnitude of impact refers to the extent to which the Proposed Development will alter the existing characteristics of the landscape. It is an expression of the size or scale of change to the landscape, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility.

16.5.13 An overall assessment of the magnitude of landscape impact resulting from the Proposed Development on landscape receptors has been made by combining the above judgements on value and susceptibility using evidence and professional judgement. The levels of landscape magnitude of impact are described as being very high, high, medium, low, very low and no change as defined in **Table 16-9**.

Table 16-9: Landscape Magnitude of Impact

Magnitude	Magnitude Criteria
Very High	Substantial alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact an extensive area or unique and important characteristics. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
High	Large alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact an extensive area or unique characteristics at a local level. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.

Magnitude	Magnitude Criteria
Medium	Partial alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a wide area or characteristics at a local level. May be long-term, temporary, permanent or reversible.
Low	Slight alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a restricted area and few key characteristics. May be long term, temporary or reversible.
Very Low	Very slight change to the landscape receptor or may impact a limited area or no key characteristics. May be long-term, temporary or reversible.
No change	No change to the landscape receptor.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

16.5.14 The levels of visual magnitude of impact are described as being very high, high, medium, low, very low and no change as defined in **Table 16-10**.

Table 16-10 Visual Magnitude of Impact

Magnitude	Magnitude Criteria
Very High	A substantial change to the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the foreground or directly. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
High	A pronounced change to the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the foreground or directly. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
Medium	A noticeable change to the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the middle ground or indirectly. May be long-term, temporary, permanent or reversible.
Low	An unobtrusive change in the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the background or obliquely. May be long term, temporary or reversible.
Very Low	A barely perceptible change in the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the background and/or very obliquely. May be long-term, temporary or reversible.
No change	No change to the view.

Significance of Effects

16.5.15 In line with landscape industry good practice, determination of the significance of landscape and visual effects has been undertaken by employing professional judgement and experience to combine and analyse the magnitude of impact against the identified sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors.

16.5.16 The significance of landscape and visual effects are described with reference to the criteria presented in **Table 16-11**. For the purposes of this

assessment, effects rated as being of moderate or major significance (adverse or beneficial) of effect are considered to be significant.

Table 16-11: Significance of Effect

Significance of Effect	Landscape	Visual
Major	Highly noticeable change affecting key characteristics of a very highly sensitive landscape, resulting in a fundamental change to its character.	Considerable change affecting a large extent of a very highly sensitive view and becoming a dominant feature.
Moderate	Noticeable change affecting some key characteristics in a highly sensitive landscape or very noticeable change in a medium sensitivity landscape, resulting in a change to the overall impression of its character.	Noticeable change affecting an important part of a highly sensitive view or a wider extent of a medium sensitivity view, becoming prominent or detracting from the existing focus.
Minor	Small change affecting few characteristics in a medium to highly sensitive landscape or noticeable change to a less sensitive landscape, resulting in a limited or localised change to the impression of its character.	Small change affecting a limited and/or unimportant part of a medium to highly sensitive view or an important part of a less sensitive view, unlikely to distract from the existing focus.
Negligible	Very little change from baseline conditions, resulting in a barely distinguishable or indistinguishable change.	Where there is no discernible improvement or deterioration in the existing view.
No change	No alteration to any of the components that contribute to the existing landscape resource.	No change to the existing view.

16.5.17 **Plate 16-1** presents a diagram to describe the relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of impacts on landscape and visual amenity to determine the effect. GLVIA3 dictates that this is not a prescriptive process and is provided as a guide to how combinations of sensitivity and magnitude are typically combined (Ref. 7).

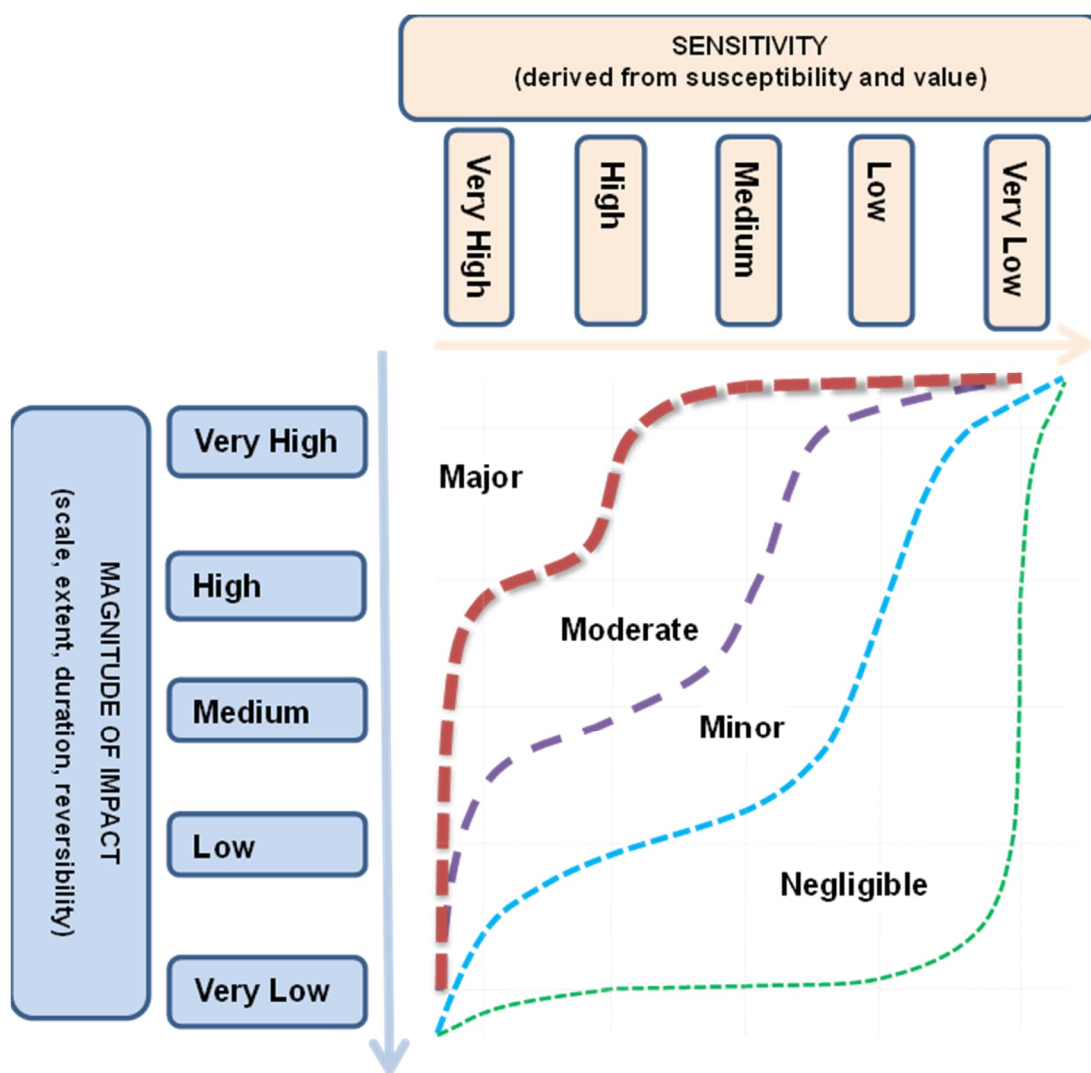


Plate 16-1: Classification of Landscape and Visual Effects

Assumptions, Limitations and Uncertainties

- 16.5.18 The assessment of landscape and visual impacts within this PEI Report is a preliminary assessment. The design of the Proposed Development will change taking into account further design work, consultation responses from the Phase Two Public Consultation and further environmental assessment. The assessment of landscape and visual impacts will be reviewed and updated against changes to the Proposed Development and will be reported in the ES.
- 16.5.19 The assessment of visual impact using representative viewpoints has been restricted by the limits of public access. Land outside of the control of the of Affinity Water (AfW) and Severn Trent (ST) (the 'Applicants'), and the Trust (as a project partner), was accessed from points of public access (roads, canal towpath and public rights of way (PRoW)).

- 16.5.20 The viewpoints included within the assessment are based on representative views from where receptors are considered the most sensitive (based on professional judgement).
- 16.5.21 The viewpoints are not intended to provide an exhaustive or fully comprehensive catalogue of views of the Proposed Development; rather they provide a representative sample for the purpose of the landscape and visual impact assessment.
- 16.5.22 The assessment has assumed that all vegetation in the vicinity of the canal bank raising, within the pipeline route where open-cut construction methods are required, access for trenchless techniques, and in proximity to permanent structures will be removed at the construction stage as a worst-case scenario and reinstated upon completion.
- 16.5.23 The landscape and visual impact assessment has taken potential mitigation planting into consideration of impacts for years 1 and 15. This includes screening planting in proximity to permanent structures such as the BPT, pumping stations, outfall structures, control buildings associated with the pumped and gravity bypasses, transfer locks, and the Galley Water Treatment Works. Any vegetation removed as a result of the works associated with the pipeline will be reinstated. A scheme of mitigation planting will be developed and the assessment updated for the ES.
- 16.5.24 At the time of assessment, access to land required for Viewpoint 15 (Braunston) had not been granted and the viewpoint could therefore not be assessed. As a result of design refinement the locations for Viewpoint 15 and Viewpoint 21 (Stoke Bruerne) will be moved to the canal towpath. An assessment of potential effects will be undertaken and reported within the ES.
- 16.5.25 Winter viewpoint photography, when vegetation is without leaf, will be undertaken and the included in the ES.
- 16.5.26 An assessment of lighting associated with the Proposed Development for visual receptors during construction and operation will be included in the ES.
- 16.5.27 An assessment on the Chilterns NL Special Qualities will be undertaken and included as an appendix in the ES.
- 16.5.28 Currently, the options for potential additional mitigation measures proposed in **Chapter 19: Noise and Vibration** in PEI Report **Volume 2**, which may have landscape and visual impacts, such as acoustic barriers or earth bunding, have not been accounted for in the assessment presented in this chapter (Chapter 16) as these mitigation measures have not been finalised for the PEI Report. The implications of noise mitigation measures will be reviewed and included in the landscape and visual impact assessment presented in the ES.

16.6 Project-Wide Environmental Design, Standards and Management

16.6.1 This section outlines embedded environmental design, standards and/or management measures in relation to landscape and visual amenity that are relevant for the whole Proposed Development. Where embedded environmental design, standards and/or management measures are specific to a Proposed Development Part(s), these have been identified in the upcoming sections.

Construction Phase

16.6.2 The following measures will be adopted during the construction phase:

- a. Adoption of a maximum working width for the open-cut pipeline construction corridor of 50 m, which will be sufficient to excavate the trench, store topsoil and subsoil separately and facilitate machinery and vehicle access (but avoiding additional land take);
- b. Placement of topsoil to one side of the trench and subsoil to the other, with the additional height of the subsoil storage used on whichever side requires greater screening benefit;
- c. Construction compounds to be enclosed by suitable fencing to reduce visual clutter, with temporary fencing and compounds removed as soon as practicable following completion of construction activities;
- d. Employing standard good practice construction techniques, such as minimising vegetation clearance, installing tree protection measures around retained trees and hedgerows, separation and storage of subsoil and topsoil to ensure no degradation in quality, and reinstatement undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction of each section / area of works. A high standard of soil management and reinstatement will achieve better integration of the pipeline route post reinstatement, reducing contrast with adjacent agricultural land and mitigating visual scarring through the landscape and along the pipeline route;
- e. Reinstatement of hedgerows / field boundaries crossed by the route, with native (and species-rich where appropriate) species planted to reduce or mitigate effects on landscape character and the visual awareness of the pipeline route within and across the landscape in the long term;
- f. Introduce screen / structure planting of native trees and shrubs around the permanent above ground structures, or enhance existing planting, to provide screening and landscape integration;
- g. Reinstatement of agricultural land such that there is no long-term change in land use along the pipeline route; and

- h. Construction temporary lighting will be designed so that excessive glare is minimised outside of the construction site as far as reasonably practicable.

Operational Phase

- 16.6.3 Following the construction phase, a programme of monitoring and maintenance of new planting and seeding will be undertaken to encourage successful establishment of landscape planting, that will be detailed within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) that will be submitted with the DCO application.

Part 1a: Minworth AWTP

16.7 Part 1a: Minworth AWTP

- 16.7.1 This section provides a focussed description of the environmental baseline, embedded environmental design, standards and management measures (if in addition to the aforementioned) and presents the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects in relation to landscape and visual impact for Part 1a (Minworth AWTP) of the Proposed Development.

Baseline Conditions

- 16.7.2 This section describes the baseline environmental characteristics with specific reference to landscape and visual amenity.

Existing Baseline

Landscape Baseline

- 16.7.3 A summary of the relevant characteristics of the National Character Areas (NCAs), Landscape Character Types (LCTs) / Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the study area are described below and presented in **Figure 16-PD-2** and **Figure 16-P1A-1** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

National Character Areas

- 16.7.4 At the national level, the study area falls within NCA 97: Arden (Ref. 15).
- 16.7.5 NCA 97 Arden is a well-wooded farmland landscape with rolling landform and strong historical and ecological interest. Mature oaks, ancient woodlands, and remnant heathlands contribute to natural heritage value, while historic parklands, commons, and associations with the Forest of Arden enhance cultural value. Scenic qualities are supported by enclosed fields, wooded skylines, and variation in field patterns. Recreational value is present in the network of village greens, river meadows, and managed greenspaces including parks and public open spaces. Perceptual qualities are locally diminished by areas of dense settlement, former colliery landscapes, and major transport corridors. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Local Landscape Character Areas

- 16.7.6 At the local level, landscape character is identified by North Warwickshire Borough Council (2010) North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study (Ref. 17).
- 16.7.7 LCA 10 Cole Valley is a flat, broad valley contained by the urban edges of Birmingham, Coleshill and Water Orton. Historic parkland is present at Coleshill Manor and Gilson Hall, though these landscapes have been altered by modern development. Perceptual qualities are reduced by the M42, M6 and A446, with substantial industrial influences in the north including Hams

Hall power station and lines of pylons. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be low.

- 16.7.8 LCA 12 Middleton to Curdworth Tame Valley Farmlands comprises gently undulating slopes shaped by small watercourses. The open arable farmland of large fields, defined by low trimmed hedgerows and minimal tree cover, contributes to an open rural character. Settlement is dispersed, with hamlets, villages, and farmsteads typically set within pastoral enclosures and occasional areas of woodland. Recreational value is provided by the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal and several golf courses. Perceptual qualities are diminished by the presence of the M42 / M6 Toll junction and visible industry to the south, both of which exert a substantial influence on the open character. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be low.

Visual Baseline

- 16.7.9 This section describes the visual baseline with reference to the visual receptors and representative viewpoints identified within the study area through a review of ZTVs, fieldwork surveys and consultation.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Analysis

- 16.7.10 In order to identify locations with potential to have views of the Proposed Development, a ZTV has been prepared to inform the visual assessment, as presented in **Figure 16-P1A-2** in PEI Report **Volume 3**. This is based on the tallest proposed structure for Part 1a; the Filter building.
- 16.7.11 The ZTVs show that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development will be limited by blocks of vegetation, built form and topography. Overall, there is limited visibility of the Filter Building from within the majority of the study area. Site survey has found that the visibility of the Filter Building would be reduced by intervening vegetation and landform, likely resulting in occasional or filtered views from within the majority of the study area.

Representative Viewpoints

- 16.7.12 Through consultation with the relevant stakeholders, as part of the EIA Scoping process, detailed in **Appendix 16-PD-2** in **Volume 4** of this PEI Report, a total of 32 viewpoints, four of which lie within Part 1a, were chosen to represent the typical range of views of the Minworth AWTP from within the study area.
- 16.7.13 The representative viewpoints have been selected to illustrate the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area as experienced from residents and recreational users. These representative viewpoints are described in **Table 16-12**, and their location illustrated on **Figure 16-P1A-3**, **Figure 16-P1B-2**, and **Figure 16-P2,3&4-2** and presented on **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

16.7.14 The full list of all potential viewpoints originally considered can be found in **Appendix 16-PD-3** in PEI Report **Volume 4**.

Table 16-12: Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
1	PRoW East of Curdworth Village	Recreational	A view looking west from a PRoW with grazed grassland in the immediate foreground, enclosed by timber fencing and hedgerows. The middle ground comprises open grazing land, with wooden poles carrying overhead lines visible as they cross the view. The background is defined by woodland and mature tree cover, which largely curtain the view beyond and restrict longer-distance visibility. A contained, semi-rural view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
2	PRoW within the River Tame Valley	Recreational	A view looking north-west from a PRoW within the River Tame valley, adjacent to the M6 and M42, with the immediate foreground comprising rough grassland and scrub vegetation along the riverbank. Pylons and associated overhead lines cross the view, extending into the middle ground and becoming partially filtered by intervening vegetation. The middle ground includes the river channel bordered by mature trees, with areas of woodland and scrub vegetation along the southern flood bank. To the southwest, the metal recycling yard is visible beyond vegetation, while to the northwest, boundary fencing and mounded ground associated with the Severn Trent Water Wastewater Treatment Works can be seen. The M6 and M42 are visible to the north. The background is partially enclosed by woodland and vegetation, restricting longer-distance visibility. A partially enclosed, semi-natural view, likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
3	PRoW along the Western Edge of Curdworth	Residential	A view looking south-west from a PRoW along the western edge of Curdworth settlement, with the immediate foreground comprising open grassland. The middle ground consists of an open field with scattered trees, small woodland groups, and a hedgerow with gaps allowing intermittent views. To the north, views towards Kingsbury Road are filtered by hedgerows, allowing glimpsed visibility of lighting columns, rooftops, and a hotel beyond.

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
			The background comprises a continuous band of woodland extending across the scene, with pylons and overhead lines viewed against the skyline. In the far distance to the west, the Birmingham city skyline and a crane at the Severn Trent Water Treatment Works are visible. An open, semi-rural view, likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
4	PRoW off Water Orton Lane	Recreational	A view looking east from a PRoW off the Water Orton Lane adjacent to a tall metal fence along the southeastern edge of the Severn Trent Water Wastewater Treatment Works, with the immediate foreground comprising overgrown bramble and vegetation that filter views further. In the background, glimpsed lighting columns and parts of the water treatment tanks are visible through gaps in the vegetation. A heavily screened, enclosed view with limited visual interest. Overall, a low value view.

Future Baseline

16.7.15 As part of the future baseline scenario in the absence of the Proposed Development, it is anticipated that the general landscape character and features will remain in a similar condition as they are now. The study area will continue to be influenced by existing industrial areas, the Minworth Waste Water Recycling Centre (WwRC), and major transport corridors.

Environmental Design, Standards and Management

16.7.16 There are no further embedded environmental design, standards and/or management measures that are specific to Part 1a (Minworth AWTP) of the Proposed Development.

Assessment of Effects and Significance

16.7.17 This section provides the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects, including determining the level of significance, for Part 1a (Minworth AWTP) of the Proposed Development. Where applicable, the requirement for additional mitigation measures and/or monitoring is identified to avoid, prevent, reduce, or if possible offset, any identified significant adverse effects on the environment.

Landscape Assessment

16.7.18 The assessments of landscape effects are presented in the following tables:

- a. **Table 16-13:** Landscape Sensitivity Assessment;
- b. **Table 16-14:** Assessment of landscape effects – National; and
- c. **Table 16-15:** Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local.

Table 16-13: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Natural England National Character Areas			
NCA 97 Arden	Medium	The rolling landform, extensive tree cover, mature oaks, and presence of ancient and historic woodlands, together with the rural character associated with the former Forest of Arden, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of major transport corridors, industrial areas, and managed greenspace lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
North Warwickshire Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 10 Cole Valley	Low	The flat valley landform and remnants of historical parkland landscape around Coleshill Manor and Gilson Hall are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of major transport corridors, industrial areas, power infrastructure, and surrounding settlements lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be low.	Low
LCA 12 Middleton to Curdworth Tame Valley Farmlands	Low	The gently undulating landform, open arable fields, and limited tree and hedgerow cover offer few opportunities for screening, providing limited capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of major transport infrastructure, industrial areas and dispersed settlements lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be low.	Low

Table 16-14: Assessment of landscape effects – National

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
NCA 97: Arden	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity will introduce urbanising features such as construction plant and activity. However, these activities, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing industrialised areas and movement along the adjacent road network, which reduces the perception of change on any of the key characteristics. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the proposed Filter Building will be viewed within the context of existing infrastructure existing water treatment and industrial infrastructure including pylons and overhead lines, as well as transport corridors and will not alter the overall perception of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects will be broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Reinstated vegetation will have established. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Table 16-15: Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
LCA 10: Cole Valley	
Construction Phase The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCA but indirect impacts will arise from the influence of construction works on perceptual qualities, predominantly for views to the south. Due to the flat and open character of the broad valley, construction activity has a greater potential to affect perceptual qualities of the LCA. However, existing urban development, industrial infrastructure, and major transport corridors are already prominent within the adjacent landscape, limiting the extent of indirect effects. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) Due to the substantial urban and industrial influence from surrounding infrastructure, including lines of pylons and major road corridors, any indirect impacts on perceptual qualities of the Proposed Development will be minimal and perceived within the existing developed context. An indirect change resulting from the operational structures will therefore be very limited. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
LCA 12: Middleton to Curdworth Tame Valley Farmlands	
Construction Phase The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCA but will introduce limited views of construction activity into a very small area of the LCA. Due to the open and gently undulating landform, construction activity may be intermittently perceptible in long views from higher ground. However, visibility will be filtered by intervening	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
hedgerows, woodland, and built form associated with settlements and local road corridors, including the M42 and M6 Toll junction, reducing impacts on perceptual qualities. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCA but will introduce very limited, distant views of operational structures into it. Due to the open farmland pattern and presence of existing infrastructure and industrial development impacts on perceptual qualities from the operation of the Proposed Development will be minimal. An indirect change resulting from the operational structures will therefore be very limited. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Visual Assessment

16.7.19 Potential visual effects of the Proposed Development in comparison with the future baseline visual context are considered for the representative viewpoints. The assessment contained within **Table 16-16** should be read in conjunction with **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3** which illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint.

Table 16-16: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint 1: PRoW east of Curdworth Village		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRoW, with medium distance views over pasture bound by hedgerow and scattered trees. Users of the PRoW are typically likely to be involved in activity which includes enjoyment of the view resulting in a medium susceptibility for recreational users. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium	Medium
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant will be introduced into the background of the view associated with the Filter Building. The majority of the works will be screened by undulating landform and intervening mature vegetation in the middle ground therefore only the uppermost part of construction plant will be visible, viewed across a small part of the horizontal extent. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 1 During operation, the proposed Filter Building will marginally increase views of industrial structures within the view. The operational development will be viewed above and beyond intervening mature tree planting and in the context of glimpsed views of existing water treatment and industrial infrastructure, overhead lines, and distant urban features, resulting in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 15		Negligible adverse (not significant)

Effects are broadly as described for Operation Year 1, although intervening vegetation and replacement planting around the proposed AWTP will have established. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.		
Viewpoint 2: PRow within the River Tame Valley		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRow, with medium distance views over rough grassland. Users of the PRow are typically likely to be involved in activity which includes enjoyment of the view resulting in a medium susceptibility for recreational users. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium	Medium
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, there will be very limited views towards activity associated with the proposed Filter Building. The majority of the works will be screened by the undulating landform and intervening mature vegetation in the foreground and middle ground. The uppermost elements of construction activities, including crane movements and the gradual increase in height of built elements within the construction site, may be perceptible through intermittent gaps in the vegetation. However, these activities will be seen within a context already characterised by industrial infrastructure, including pylons, overhead lines and buildings associated with a scrap metal yard, which will reduce the degree of visual contrast and the perceived scale of change. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 1 During operation, the proposed Filter Building will marginally increase the extent of industrial structures visible in the view. The upper parts of the Proposed Development will be perceptible through intermittent gaps in the		Negligible adverse (not significant)

vegetation. Where visible, it will be experienced within a context already characterised by industrial infrastructure, including pylons, overhead lines and buildings associated with a scrap metal yard, which will reduce the degree of visual contrast and the perceived scale of change. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.			
Operation Year 15 Effects are broadly as described for Operation Year 1, although replacement planting around the proposed Filter Building will have established. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.			Negligible adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 3: PRow along the Western Edge of Curdworth			
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor	
Receptors include users of the PRow, with medium distance views over open grassland. Users of the PRow are typically likely to be involved in activity which includes enjoyment of the view resulting in a medium susceptibility for recreational users. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium	Medium	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, there will be views across a medium horizontal extent of the view in the middle ground towards activity associated with construction including excavation, temporary compounds, plant and machinery movement, materials storage, and safety fencing. Intervening hedgerows, scattered trees, and gentle variations in the landform will partially screen and filter views of ground-level construction activity. Mid-level and upper-level construction activity may be intermittently visible above intervening vegetation and will be seen against the skyline. Construction activity will be viewed in the context of existing built and infrastructure features including existing water treatment works, the Kingsbury Road, and distant urban elements such as the Birmingham skyline, which collectively reduce the perceived contrast and nature of change.			Minor adverse (not significant)

The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be low, over a medium geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			
Operation Year 1 During operation, the proposed Filter Building will marginally increase views of industrial structures within the view. The upper extent of the Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of existing water treatment and industrial infrastructure, including pylons, overhead lines, and distant urban features, resulting in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.			Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 15 Effects are broadly as described for Operation Year 1, although replacement planting around the proposed Filter Building will have established. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.			Negligible adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 4: PRoW off Water Orton Lane			
Visual susceptibility to change		Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRoW, with near distance views. Users of the PRoW are typically likely to be involved in activity which includes enjoyment of the view resulting in a medium susceptibility for recreational users. When combined with the overall low value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.		Low	Medium
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, there will be very limited views towards activity associated with the proposed Filter Building. Ground-level and mid-level works will be largely screened by the tall metal fencing, dense bramble and scrub vegetation in the immediate foreground, restricting visibility to only occasional glimpses through intermittent gaps			Negligible adverse (not significant)

in the vegetation and above the boundary fence along the southeastern edge of the existing Severn Trent Water Wastewater Treatment Works. Scattered scrub and trees restricted visibility further to the east towards the Floc-Sed Area. Uppermost part of construction activities, including the movement of cranes and the gradual increase in height of built elements within the construction site, may be perceptible above intervening vegetation. However, this activity will be viewed within a context already dominated by water treatment infrastructure and boundary fencing, which will reduce the degree of visual contrast and perceived scale of change. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation Year 1 During operation, the proposed Filter Building and structures within the Floc-Sec Area will marginally increase views of industrial structures within the view. The operational development will be viewed in the context of existing water treatment and industrial infrastructure, including fencing, lighting columns, and tanks visible through gaps in vegetation. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 15 Effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1, although replacement planting around the proposed Filter Building will have established. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Additional Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring

- 16.7.20 No additional mitigation, enhancement or monitoring measures are proposed, as the assessment has not identified any likely significant effects requiring further mitigation. Where appropriate, mitigation measures are described elsewhere in this chapter.

Summary

- 16.7.21 No significant adverse landscape or visual effects have been identified for any representative viewpoints during construction or operation for Part 1a. Therefore, no additional mitigation is necessary.

Part 1b: Minworth to Atherstone Pipeline

16.8 Part 1b: Minworth to Atherstone Pipeline

- 16.8.1 This section provides a focussed description of the environmental baseline, embedded environmental design, standards and management measures (if in addition to the aforementioned) and presents the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects in relation to landscape and visual impacts for Part 1b (Minworth to Atherstone Pipeline) of the Proposed Development.

Baseline Conditions

- 16.8.2 This section describes the baseline environmental characteristics with specific reference to landscape and visual amenity.

Existing Baseline

Landscape Baseline

- 16.8.3 A summary of the relevant characteristics of the NCAs, LCTs / LCAs within the study area are described below and presented in **Figure 16-P1B-1** and **Figure 16-P1B-2** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

National Character Areas

- 16.8.4 At the national level, the study area falls within parts of the following NCAs:
- a. NCA 97: Arden (Ref. 15); and
 - b. NCA 69: Trent Valley Washlands (Ref. 16).
- 16.8.5 The baseline description for NCA 97 Arden is included in Part 1a, section 16.7.
- 16.8.6 NCA 69 Trent Valley Washlands is a distinctly narrow and low-lying landscape defined by flat river floodplains and gravel terraces, bordered by rising ground. The contrast between pastoral land on wet alluvial soils and arable land on free-draining terraces reflects the underlying geology. Wetland habitats and riparian vegetation, including willows and meadows, support notable species such as otter, water vole, and white-clawed crayfish, contributing to natural heritage value. Historic settlement patterns along river terraces, along with canal and brewing heritage, enhance cultural value. Scenic qualities are supported by the linear structure of rivers and canals, hedgerows, and riparian trees. Recreational value is linked to the extensive canal network. Perceptual qualities are locally diminished by industrial activity, large-scale infrastructure, and urban-edge development. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Local Landscape Character Areas

- 16.8.7 At the local level, landscape character is identified by North Warwickshire Borough Council's Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study (Ref. 17).

- 16.8.8 LCA 4 Baddesley to Hartshill Uplands comprises a unified upland landscape defined by steeply sloping and undulating rock scarps, which contribute to geomorphological interest, and is further characterised by extensive woodland cover, including areas of ancient oak-birch woodland that enhance its natural heritage value. Cultural value is enhanced by mining settlements such as Hartshill and Ridge Lane, as well as the landmark setting of Merevale Hall within the parkland. Recreational value is strengthened by Hartshill Hayes Country Park, several golf courses, and a network of public rights of way, which provide access and opportunities to experience the landscape. Scenic qualities are associated with the long views from high points across the Anker Valley; however, these are reduced by the presence of scattered industrial buildings and communications infrastructure. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of LCA 4 is considered to be medium.
- 16.8.9 LCA 6 Wood End to Whitacre-Upper Tame Valley Farmlands comprises the undulating slopes of the upper Tame Valley, characterised by mixed farmland with well-wooded upper slopes and small valleys with streams that draining towards the River Tame. The ancient field pattern of small and irregular pastures with hedgerows and mature oaks contributes to the natural heritage value, while historic properties such as Whitacre Hall and Flanders Hall, together with the traditional brick and timber vernacular of Hurley, Hurley Common and Wood End, contribute to the cultural heritage value. Scenic qualities are enhanced by wooded slopes, well-vegetated watercourses, and wide-open views across the valley towards Birmingham. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA in the study area is considered to be medium.
- 16.8.10 LCA 11 Tame Valley Wetlands comprises a low-lying and visually contained landscape of alluvial river terraces and restored gravel workings. The area includes a network of wetlands, scrub, and woodland, particularly around Kingsbury Water Park and Cliff Pool Nature Reserve. Historic riparian features at Whitacre Heath and Ladywalk contribute to natural heritage value, alongside the meandering River Tame and associated flood meadows. Settlements such as Whitacre Heath, Nether Whitacre, Lea Marston and Marston display a red-brick vernacular that reinforces cultural heritage value within a predominantly rural setting. River Tame and the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal provide recreational opportunities and enhance the sense of place. Scenic qualities are enhanced by the open wetland character and vegetated enclosure. However, the presence of industrial and electrical infrastructure detracts from the landscape structure, reducing the scenic quality and tranquillity. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Visual Baseline

16.8.11 This section describes the visual baseline with reference to the visual receptors and representative viewpoints identified within the study area through a review of ZTVs, fieldwork surveys and consultation.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Analysis

16.8.12 In order to identify locations with potential to have views of the Proposed Development, the following ZTVs have been produced to inform the visual assessment:

- a. **Figure 16-P1B-3:** Part 1b Pipeline Zone of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features) in PEI Report **Volume 3**; and
- b. **Figure 16-P1B-4:** Part 1b Break-Pressure Tank Zone of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features) in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

16.8.13 The methodology used to produce the ZTV is set out within **Appendix 16-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 4**. The ZTVs show that for the BPT, which represents the tallest proposed structure, visibility in proximity to the Proposed Development is very limited as a result of screening vegetation and topography. For the pipeline route, theoretical visibility is extensive due to the lack of intervening screening vegetation and the undulating topography. Site survey has found that visibility will be considerably reduced, with views often curtailed by localised vegetation, field boundaries, intervening landform, and built form. Consequently, visibility from most receptors will be intermittent and limited to short sections of the route where gaps in boundary planting or local topographic variation allow views.

Representative Viewpoints

16.8.14 Through consultation with the relevant stakeholders, as part of the EIA Scoping process, detailed in **Appendix 16-PD-1** in PEI Report **Volume 4**, a total of 32 viewpoints, three of which lie within Part 1b, were chosen to represent the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area.

16.8.15 The representative viewpoints have been selected to illustrate the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area as experienced from recreational users and PRow users. These representative viewpoints are described in **Table 16-17**, and their location illustrated on **Figure 16-P1A-3**, **Figure 16-P1B-2**, and **Figure 16-P2,3&4-2** in PEI Report **Volume 3** and presented on **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

16.8.16 The full list of all potential viewpoints originally considered can be found in **Appendix 16-PD-3** in PEI Report **Volume 4**.

Table 16-17: Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
5	Lea Bridge over the River Tame	Road user	A view looking north from Lea Bridge over the River Tame, looking northwards along the river valley across the flat floor of the floodplain. The middle ground features the river channel bordered by dense riparian woodland to the west and an open floodplain to the east. The view extends to gently rising ground on the far side of the river, which is partially tree-lined, with a weir and sluice structure visible. The background is defined by woodland and vegetation enclosing the valley, restricting longer-distance visibility. A contained rural view, likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a low value view. As a result of design development, trenchless construction methods have been identified at this location, resulting in no impact to the view. The impact to visual amenity is therefore not assessed within the PEI Report. This viewpoint location will be relocated to a location that obtains views towards the Proposed Development and assessed as part of the ES.
6	PRoW off Dexter Lane	Recreational	A view looking south from a PRoW off the Dexter Lane along the edge of an arable field, with the immediate foreground comprising cultivated ground alongside a dense hedgerow. The middle ground extends across open farmland defined by hedgerows and scattered mature trees, with a wooden pole and overhead line visible. Agricultural buildings are visible through gaps beyond the tree line. To the north of the view, there is some visibility of High Speed 2 (HS2) construction activity, seen beyond several intervening hedge lines and mature trees. The background is defined by a wooded and slightly elevated ridgeline which encloses the view and restricts longer-distance visibility. The upper part of a pylon and its associated overhead line is also visible, breaking the skyline. An attractive rural view with minimal detractors, likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
7	Roadside Gateway off	Road user	Original location identified for photography has significant visual screening in the middle ground. Photography from an alternative viewpoint location will be taken in

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
	Twenty One Oaks		winter and included in the ES. A baseline view and assessment has been taken from a roadside gateway along the local road, Twenty One Oaks, looking north-east across gently undulating arable farmland. The immediate foreground comprises a metal gate and boundary hedgerow, with a grassy verge alongside the road. The middle ground features open farmland with scattered mature trees and small woodland blocks. The solar farm off Merevale Lane, is visible to the southwest of the view, partially screened by intervening vegetation and landform. The background is defined by dense woodland and tree belts that enclose the view and restrict longer-distance visibility. An attractive rural view, with minimal detractors. Overall, a medium value view.

Future Baseline

16.8.17 As part of the future baseline scenario in the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that small amounts of development within existing settlement boundaries will have been constructed, but the general landscape character and features will remain in a similar condition as they are now. The wider study area will continue to be influenced by the presence of existing major transport corridors.

Environmental Design, Standards and Management

16.8.18 There are no further embedded environmental design, standards and/or management measures that are specific to Part 1b (Minworth to Atherstone Pipeline) of the Proposed Development.

Assessment of Effects and Significance

16.8.19 This section provides the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects, including determining the level of significance, for Part 1b (Minworth to Atherstone Pipeline) of the Proposed Development. Where applicable, the requirement for additional mitigation measures and/or monitoring is identified to avoid, prevent, reduce, or if possible offset, any identified significant adverse effects on the environment.

Landscape Assessment

16.8.20 The assessments of landscape effects are presented in the following tables:

- a. **Table 16-18:** Landscape Sensitivity Assessment;
- b. **Table 16-19:** Assessment of Landscape Effects – National; and
- c. **Table 16-20:** Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local.

16.8.21 The assessment of landscape effects on NCA 97: Arden is included in Part 1a, section 16.7 for the assessment of effects on Minworth AWTP, and is also included in Part 1b, section 16.8 and Part 2, section 16.9 for the assessment of effects on the Minworth to Atherstone Pipeline and the Daventry and Drayton Reservoirs.

Table 16-18: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Natural England National Character Areas			
NCA 97 Arden	Medium	As set out in Part 1a, Table 16-14 . Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
NCA 69 Trent Valley Washlands	Medium	The flat floodplains, open valley form, riparian vegetation, and wetland habitats create a strong sense of openness and natural character, offering limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of major transport corridors, power lines, mineral extraction, and urban-edge industrial development lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
North Warwickshire Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 4 Baddesley to Hartshill Uplands	Medium	The steep, undulating landform, extensive woodland cover, and small-scale field pattern enclosed by ancient hedgerows are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The presence of historic and modern quarrying, mining settlements, and scattered industrial buildings lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
LCA 6 Wood End to Whitacre - Upper Tame Valley Farmlands	Medium	The undulating landform, well-wooded upper slopes, and small-scale pastoral valleys with mature hedgerows and field oaks are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The presence of arable farmland on higher ground, local settlement edges, and existing influences such as the military firing range and road network lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
LCA 11 Tame Valley Wetlands	Medium	The flat valley landform, extensive areas of wetland, and riparian vegetation provide a strong sense of natural character, offering limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The presence of industrial influences from Hams Hall, and existing infrastructure lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium

Table 16-19: Assessment of Landscape Effects – National

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
NCA 97: Arden	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the proposed Minworth to Atherstone pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activity associated with the pipeline route and construction access, including lighting, will not be dissimilar from agricultural works, major transport routes, and High Speed 2 (HS2) construction activity within the NCA, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a small area without altering the overall perception of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (Not Significant)
NCA 69: Trent Valley Washlands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing major transport corridors, industrial estates, pylons and overhead lines, as well as areas of past sand and gravel extraction, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (Not Significant)

Table 16-20: Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
LCA 4: Baddesley to Hartshill Uplands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the proposed Minworth to Atherstone pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Small areas of mixed deciduous woodland and individual trees south of Coleshill Road will be at risk of felling, although works will avoid the adjacent area of ancient woodland to the north. Overall, there will be a minimal effect on the characteristic woodland and hedgerow patterns within the LCA. Construction activity associated with the pipeline route and construction access, including lighting, will not be dissimilar from agricultural works within the LCA, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the LCA. Construction compounds will be located close to existing access routes or within fields enclosed by hedgerows and woodland, where the undulating topography and well-wooded character will help to contain visibility. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration over a small area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (Not Significant)
LCA 6: Wood End to Whitacre - Upper Tame Valley Farmlands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the proposed Minworth to Atherstone pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation.	Negligible adverse (Not Significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction activity associated with the pipeline route and construction access, including lighting, will not be dissimilar from agricultural works within the LCA, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of its key characteristics. Construction compounds will be located adjacent to existing field boundaries or access routes, where intervening hedgerows and localised variations in landform will help to contain visibility. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
LCA 11: Tame Valley Wetlands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the proposed Minworth to Atherstone pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activity associated with the pipeline route and construction access, including lighting, will not be dissimilar from agricultural works within the LCA, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of its key characteristics. Construction compounds will be located within or adjacent to previously disturbed ground, often contained by wetland scrub, woodland belts, or positioned near existing transport corridors and infrastructure. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (Not Significant)

Visual Assessment

16.8.22 Potential visual effects of the Proposed Development in comparison with the future baseline visual context are considered for the representative viewpoints. The assessments contained within **Table 16-21** should be read in conjunction with **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3** which illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint.

Table 16-21: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint 6: PRow off Dexter Lane		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRow, with near distance views. Users of the PRow are typically likely to be involved in activity which includes enjoyment of the view resulting in a medium susceptibility for recreational users. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium	Medium
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed Minworth to Atherstone pipeline route will be visible within a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the background of the view. This will include arable fields in the foreground and middle ground that will be directly impacted by excavation within the pipeline route. The movement of construction machinery along the access road in the foreground, will be prominently visible within the view. The compound will be screened by localised vegetation from this location. Construction activity will be viewed in the context of a number of detracting features including the overhead lines and wooden poles which reduces the degree of contrast. The arable farmland will be restored at the end of the construction phase resulting in no change to the view at the conclusion of the construction period. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a large geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (Significant)
Operation Year 1 During Operation Year 1, the land associated with the Proposed Development will be reinstated, although reinstated vegetation will be immature at this stage. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a medium geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (Not Significant)
Operation (Year 15)		Negligible adverse (not significant)

At Operation Year 15 the land will have revegetated and there will be indistinguishable from the baseline. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.		
Viewpoint 7: Roadside Gateway off Twenty One Oaks		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include road users, with near distance views. Road users are not focused on their surroundings and the view is incidental to their enjoyment resulting in a low susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium	Medium
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the proposed BPT will dominate the horizontal extent of the view. This will include construction compounds in the foreground of the view and construction activity extending into the middle ground. The construction works will displace an existing agricultural field but will be within the context of movement in the view, including vehicles along local roads such as Coleshill Road and Twenty One Oaks, as well as other detracting features including the overhead lines, wooden poles, and the nearby solar farm, all of which reduces the degree of contrast. The construction activity will not obstruct any longer distance views of the surrounding landscape due to the nature of the topography. During construction, there will be temporary lighting visible at working areas along the pipeline corridor. The temporary lighting will be low level and directional to minimise disturbance. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a large geographical extent, long-term and temporary which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (Significant)
Operation Year 1 During operation, there will be direct views of the proposed BPT, which will form a pronounced feature within the foreground and middle ground of the view. However, the structure will be set within the existing field enclosure and partially filtered by existing hedgerows and intervening vegetation. Parts of the structure will also be set against the wooded backdrop, which will reduce its perceived prominence within the wider view. However, it will be viewed within the context of movement in the view, including vehicles along the Coleshill Road and Twenty		Moderate adverse (Significant)

One Oaks, as well as other detracting features including the overhead lines and wooden poles which reduces the degree of contrast. During operation, there will be sensor operated security lighting at the BPT that will be occasionally visible when maintenance operations are undertaken during the hours of darkness. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a large geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 15) Effects during Operational Year 15 would be broadly as described for Operation Year 1. The magnitude of impact at operation Year 15 is assessed to be medium, over a medium geographical extent, long term and permanent which results on balance in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (Not significant)

Additional Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring

16.8.23 Significant adverse visual effects have been assessed for viewpoint 6 during construction as a result of the close distance between the receptor and the Proposed Development, and the scale of construction operations. No additional mitigation has been identified to date to reduce the assessed impacts during construction. This will be reviewed for the assessment reported in the ES.

16.8.24 No significant adverse visual effects have been identified for any representative viewpoints during operation for Part 1b. Therefore, no additional mitigation is necessary.

Summary

16.8.25 **Table 16-22** summarises the significant residual visual effects of the Proposed Development, following the implementation of any identified additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring. No significant adverse landscape effects have been identified.

Table 16-22: Summary of significant residual effects – Part 1b

Description of impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Nature of effect / geographic scale	Magnitude of impact	Initial classification of effect (with embedded control)	Additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring	Residual effect significance
<i>Construction Phase</i>						
Viewpoint 6: PRow off Dexter Lane	Medium	Long-term temporary noticeable change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 7: Roadside Gateway off Twenty One Oaks	Medium	Long-term temporary noticeable change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (Significant)
<i>Operation Phase (Year 1)</i>						
Viewpoint 7: Roadside Gateway off Twenty One Oaks	Medium	Long-term noticeable change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (Significant)

Part 2: Works to the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union Canals

16.9 Part 2: Works to the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union canals

- 16.9.1 This section provides a focussed description of the environmental baseline, embedded environmental design, standards and management measures (if in addition to the aforementioned) and presents the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects in relation to landscape and visual impacts for Part 2 (Works to the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union canals) of the Proposed Development.

Baseline Conditions

- 16.9.2 This section describes the baseline environmental characteristics with specific reference to landscape and visual amenity.

Existing Baseline

Landscape Baseline

- 16.9.3 A summary of the relevant characteristics of the NCAs, LCTs / LCAs within the study area are described below and presented in **Figure P2,3&4-1** and **Figure 16-P2,3&4-2** PEI Report **Volume 3**.

National Character Areas (NCAs)

- 16.9.4 At the national level, the study area falls within parts of the following NCAs:
- NCA 72 Mease / Sence Lowlands (Ref. 18);
 - NCA 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands (Ref. 19);
 - NCA 89 Northamptonshire Vales (Ref. 20);
 - NCA 90 Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge (Ref. 21);
 - NCA 91 Yardley Whittlewood Ridge (Ref. 22);
 - NCA 94 Leicestershire Vales (Ref. 23);
 - NCA 95 Northamptonshire Uplands (Ref. 24);
 - NCA 96 Dunsmore and Feldon (Ref. 25); and
 - NCA 97 Arden (Ref. 15).
- 16.9.5 NCA 72 Mease / Sence Lowlands is a gently rolling agricultural landscape defined by clay ridges, shallow valleys, and outcrops of sandstone. Productive clay soils support arable farmland, with mixed land use on heavier clays. Neutral grasslands, wet meadows, and rivers including the Mease and Sence contribute to ecological value, supporting rare species such as white-clawed crayfish and spined loach. Cultural heritage value is reinforced by the historic parklands, ridge and furrow patterns, canals, and red brick farmsteads. Scenic qualities are supported by hedgerow-defined field patterns, riparian vegetation, and open views. Recreational and historic

interest is provided by the Ashby and Coventry Canals. However, perceptual qualities are locally diminished by major road infrastructure and urban development. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

16.9.6 NCA 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands is a gently undulating lowland plateau, underlain by clays and glacial deposits and dissected by shallow river valleys and man-made features. Woodland cover is variable, with secondary woodlands, plantations, and scattered ancient woodlands on higher ground contributing to natural heritage value. Predominantly arable of planned and regular fields, are interspersed with wetland habitats, restored gravel pits, and river corridors supporting a range of rare species. Historic parklands, country houses, and archaeological features, including Roman roads and Second World War heritage, enhance cultural heritage value. Recreational assets such as Grafham Water, the Grand Union Canal, woodland sites, and National Cycle Routes support public access and enjoyment. While perceptual qualities are locally affected by major roads, railways, and former industrial activity, the landscape retains a recognisable rural character. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

16.9.7 NCA 89 Northamptonshire Vales is an open, gently undulating landscape of clay ridges and valleys, with occasional scarp slopes and a visually uniform character. The mixed agricultural regime and varied hedgerow patterns reflect a strong field structure, while waterside vegetation, spinneys, and copses contribute to the area's limited but distinctive woodland character. River valleys such as the Welland and Nene, along with their floodplains and wetland mosaics, support notable wetland species and enhance natural heritage value. Cultural value is reinforced by historic parklands, spired churches, and high-status timber-framed farm buildings. Perceptual qualities are locally diminished by major infrastructure and frequent large settlements. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

16.9.8 The baseline description and assessment for NCA 90 Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge is included in Part 4b, section 16.12.

16.9.9 NCA 91 Yardley Whittlewood Ridge is a broad low limestone plateau and a gently undulating landform rising above the adjacent claylands. The landscape is well wooded, with extensive blocks of ancient woodland, wood pasture, and historic parkland including Royal Hunting Forests such as Salcey Forest and Whittlewood Forest. The landscape supports a diverse range of semi-natural habitats including ancient woodland, species-rich hedgerows, veteran trees, lowland meadows, floodplain grazing marsh, fens, and reedbeds, supporting species including white admiral and wood white butterflies, dormice, and several bat and moth species. Historic parklands, limestone villages, and country houses enhance cultural value, while

recreation is supported by features such as Salcey Forest, Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum, and regional attractions including Silverstone Circuit and Towcester Racecourse. Despite localised influences from major transport corridors, perceptual qualities remain generally high. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be high.

16.9.10 NCA 94 Leicestershire Vales is an open landscape of gentle clay ridges and valleys with an overall visual uniformity in landform and settlement pattern. Land use comprises a mix of pasture and arable agriculture on neutral clay soils, with gravel extraction creating waterbodies in some river valleys. Natural heritage value is supported by riverside meadows, waterside vegetation, and scattered spinneys, copses, and hedgerow trees. Cultural value is reinforced by frequent historic villages, spired churches, and nationally significant sites such as Bosworth Battlefield and medieval settlement remains at Gumley and Knaptoft. Scenic qualities are influenced by the gently undulating landform, varied hedgerow patterns, and occasional scarp slopes. Recreational value is supported by the presence of accessible heritage features and historic parklands. Perceptual qualities are reduced in parts due to the presence of large settlements and major infrastructure. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

16.9.11 The baseline description and assessment for NCA 95 Northamptonshire Uplands is included in Part 3, section 16.10.

16.9.12 NCA 96 Dunsmore and Feldon is a gently undulating rural landscape of low hills, clay vales and occasional escarpments, with a mix of sandy and fertile soils supporting both arable and pastoral agriculture. Woodland cover is generally low but includes ancient woodlands, hedgerow trees and landscaped parklands, particularly in the north, contributing to natural heritage interest. Historic features such as ridge-and-furrow, medieval settlement remains, and remnant heathland archaeology enhance cultural value. River valleys, canals, and Draycote Reservoir offer recreational opportunities and riparian habitats. Scenic qualities are associated with open rural views and varied landform. However, the proximity of busy roads, urban edges, and former quarry sites locally reduces perceptual qualities. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

16.9.13 The baseline description and assessment for NCA 97 is included in Part 1a, section 16.7.

Local Landscape Character

16.9.14 At the local level, landscape character is identified by:

- a. North Warwickshire Borough Council (2010) North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study (Ref. 17);

- b. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2012) Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 26);
- c. Coventry City Council (2008) Coventry Green Infrastructure Study (Ref. 27);
- d. Rugby Borough Council (2006) Landscape Assessment of the Borough of Rugby – Sensitivity and Condition Study (Ref. 28);
- e. Daventry District Council (2017) Daventry Landscape Character Assessment⁶ (Ref. 29);
- f. Milton Keynes Council (2022) Milton Keynes Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 30); and
- g. South Northamptonshire Council (2020) South Northamptonshire Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 31).

North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study

16.9.15 LCA 3 Anker Valley comprises a broad valley landscape defined by the River Anker and Coventry Canal. Natural heritage value is supported by riparian habitats, pockets of regenerating woodland on former colliery sites, and wetlands at the Alvecote and Pooley Country Park. Cultural value is provided by heritage assets and designed landscapes including Grendon Park, Caldecote Hall and Alvecote Priory, which contribute to the local distinctiveness. Scenic qualities are defined by the contrast between open arable farmland, pockets of pasture near settlements and waterways, and the winding courses of the River Anker and Coventry Canal, with wide views across the valley from the upper slopes. Recreational value is enhanced by the canal network, Pooley Country Park, Alvecote Marina and visitor attractions such as Dobbies Nursery. Perceptual qualities are mixed, with areas of rural character around parkland and river corridors, offset by urban influences from nearby settlements and major transport routes including the A5, M42 and West Coast Main Line. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be medium.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Character Assessment

16.9.16 The Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Character Assessment includes LCT which are then subdivided into LCA, the descriptions of which are presented below.

16.9.17 LCA 1 Hartshill Ridge is a distinctive upland landscape defined by a prominent ridge and the steeply rising landform at Caldecote Hill, with Judkins Quarry forming a landmark feature that contributes to geomorphological interest and natural heritage value. Cultural heritage value

⁶ Daventry District Council and South Northamptonshire Council are now part of West Northamptonshire Council, a unitary council formed in 2021.

is reinforced by the man-made Mount Jud, which contributes to the area's visual identity. Woodland along the canal and ridgeline, including designated nature reserves, enhances natural heritage value, while cultural value is further expressed through local landmarks such as the windmill on Windmill Hill and the historic canal corridor. Scenic qualities are associated with long views eastwards across the Anker Valley; however, they are locally diminished by quarrying and industrial activity. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LCA is considered to be medium.

16.9.18 LCA 2 Anker Valley Estate Farmlands comprises a gently undulating lowland vale defined by the River Anker and its shallow valley. Natural heritage value is provided by riparian habitats along the River Anker and its tributary streams, linear belts of woodland, and scattered field ponds and meadows that support biodiversity interest. Cultural value is supported by historic field structure and the visible presence of Weddington Church. Scenic qualities are shaped by linear woodland, clustered hedgerow trees, and filtered views across the rural fringe. Perceptual qualities are predominantly rural and tranquil, though locally reduced by the influence of road corridors and settlement edges. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be medium.

16.9.19 LCA 6 Nuneaton and Bedworth Urban Fringes comprises a gently undulating landscape of mixed farmland, woodland, and wetland features. Cultural heritage value is evident in the remnants of the former Arbury Canal system, traditional field patterns, and historic farmsteads that retain a strong rural character. Natural heritage value is reflected in the mosaic of semi-natural habitats including grassland, woodland, and wetlands, which support biodiversity and contribute to ecological connectivity. Recreational value is provided by the canal and river corridors, which offer opportunities for informal recreation within a semi-rural setting. However, perceptual qualities are locally diminished by settlement fringe and quarry activity. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LCA is considered to be medium

Coventry Green Infrastructure Study

16.9.20 LCT 1 Industrial Arden is a fragmented urban fringe landscape characterised by former mining settlements, disused spoil heaps, and pockets of farmland enclosed by development. Natural heritage value is limited but locally enhanced by areas of semi-natural grassland and heathland vegetation. Cultural value is reflected in the historic pattern of mining settlements and relics of industrial heritage that illustrate the area's past association with coal mining and quarrying. Scenic qualities are variable, defined by an undulating landform and a mix of open farmland and reclaimed ground. Perceptual qualities are generally diminished by urban encroachment, degraded field boundaries, and visible infrastructure. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be low.

Landscape Assessment of the Borough of Rugby – Sensitivity and Condition Study

- 16.9.21 LCT 3 Dunsmore Parklands is a well-wooded and gently rolling estate landscape defined by ancient woodland blocks, parkland, and mature tree cover. The presence of roadside oaks, hedgerow trees, and ancient woodland creates a sequence of enclosed spaces and contributes to the area's natural heritage value. Scenic qualities are supported by wooded skylines and occasional middle-distance views through gaps in tree cover. Recreational value is enhanced by the presence of Coombe Country Park and a connected network of public rights of way, which provide opportunities for public access and enjoyment of the parkland and woodland landscapes. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LCA is considered to be medium.
- 16.9.22 LCT 4 Feldon, Ironstone Fringe is a remote and gently rolling rural landscape associated with the raised Lower Lias tableland that forms the fringe of the Ironstone Wolds. Natural heritage value is supported by semi-natural grassland on steep hillsides and permanent pasture with well-preserved ridge and furrow patterns. Cultural value is reinforced by the deserted medieval villages and traditional ironstone-built settlements. Scenic qualities are defined by the open expansive farmland and elevated views across sparsely settled countryside. Perceptual qualities are generally rural and tranquil influenced by the area's remoteness, limited settlement and major infrastructure, though shaped by its intensively farmed character. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be medium.
- 16.9.23 LCT 5 Feldon, Vale Farmlands is a flat and low-lying clay vale landscape defined by a coherent pattern of geometric fields and sparse tree cover. Wide views and a strong sense of openness, reinforced by hawthorn hedgerows, contribute to scenic qualities. Extensive areas of permanent pasture and well-preserved ridge and furrow contributes to cultural value. Natural heritage value is limited overall, though isolated wetlands offer pockets of ecological interest. Villages are few and dispersed, reinforcing the area's rural character. However, perceptual qualities are locally diminished by areas of decline east of Hillmorton and south of the Plateau Fringe. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.
- 16.9.24 LCT 7 High Cross Plateau, Open Plateau is a remote, large-scale plateau landscape characterised by open, rolling topography and broad valleys. Natural heritage value is supported by pockets of permanent pasture, ridge and furrow, and shelterbelts that contribute to ecological interest. Cultural value is reflected in the historic pattern of isolated manor farmsteads, sparsely populated hamlets, and associations with deserted medieval village sites. Scenic qualities derive from the open landform, expansive skylines and

distant views, reinforcing perceptions of remoteness. Perceptual qualities are marked by openness, tranquillity, and remoteness, reinforced by the absence of settlement and major infrastructure across much of the plateau. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be high.

- 16.9.25 LCT 8 High Cross Plateau, Village Farmlands is a small-scale, predominantly pastoral landscape located around the plateau fringes. Natural heritage value is limited due to intensive farming but supported by areas of permanent pasture, scattered hedgerow trees, and field ponds. Cultural value is reflected in the coherent pattern of small, semi-regular fields enclosed by thorn hedges, ridge and furrow, and the historic village structure linked by narrow winding lanes. Scenic qualities are characterised by varied landscape, where undulating topography, small fields, and scattered hedgerow trees create visual unity. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be medium.

Daventry Landscape Character Assessment

- 16.9.26 The Daventry Landscape Character Assessment includes LCT which are then subdivided into LCA, the descriptions of which are included below.
- 16.9.27 The baseline description and assessment for LCA 13b Daventry is included in Part 3, section 16.10.
- 16.9.28 LCA 18a The Nene – Long Buckby to Weedon Bec is a narrow, low-lying river-valley corridor defined by the upper River Nene and a tributary watercourse, extending between Long Buckby Wharf and Lower Weedon. Natural heritage value is supported by the river corridor, woodland belts along the Grand Union Canal and the pastoral and parkland landscapes of Flore Park in the south, providing localised ecological interest within a predominantly arable valley floor. Cultural value is linked to the Grand Union Canal, historic canal bridges, Flore Park, and the historic edges of Long Buckby Wharf and Weedon Bec. Scenic qualities are defined by the flat, contained floodplain, medium-scale arable fields with low hedgerows, and wooded linear corridors that create a locally varied landscape. Perceptual qualities are mixed, with tranquil canal-side sections and pastoral areas offset by noise and movement from major transport corridors and rail infrastructure. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be medium.
- 16.9.29 LCA 19b Vale of Rugby is a broad, flat and predominantly open vale landscape characterised by wide panoramas, long views, framed by the gently rising landform of neighbouring character areas. Natural heritage value is supported by the network of rivers, watercourses, and canal corridors that contribute to ecological interest within an otherwise intensively managed agricultural landscape. Cultural value is reflected in historic settlement forms, ridge and furrow around village edges, the Conservation Areas, and the parkland setting at Stanford on Avon. Scenic qualities are

defined by the expansive open views across the flat or gently sloping landform and the contrast with the more wooded higher ground beyond the vale. Perceptual qualities are generally quiet and rural, though locally diminished by the presence of infrastructure, wind farms, overhead lines, and the prominent warehouse development at Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT). Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be medium.

- 16.9.30 As a result of design development no construction works will be undertaken within LCA 19b. There is limited potential for indirect impacts from construction operations being undertaken in adjacent LCAs as result of distance and limited intervisibility. Therefore, LCA 19b Vale of Rugby has been scoped out of the assessment.

Milton Keynes Landscape Character Assessment

- 16.9.31 LCA 3c Ouse Lakes and Parkland Floodplains is a broad, well-treed river floodplain, defined by restored mineral lakes, extensive wetlands and a mosaic of semi-improved grassland and grazing marsh. Natural heritage value is high, supported by priority deciduous woodland, willow-lined river corridors, and multiple Local Wildlife Sites and Wildlife Corridor that together form a biodiverse and ecologically rich river landscape. Cultural value is strong, reflected in the River Ouse and the Grand Union Canal corridor, historic crossing points such as the Iron Trunk aqueduct and Tickford Bridge, medieval and monastic remains at Old Wolverton, the historic common of Bury Field with Civil War earthworks, and the Conservation Area at Newport Pagnell. Scenic qualities are characterised by open waterbodies, wetland mosaics, well-treed riverbanks and broad floodplain views. Recreational value is high, with extensive access provided by PRow networks and the restored lake complexes that offer opportunities for walking, cycling and water-based recreation. Perceptual qualities vary across the LCA, with tranquil and nature rich areas around the wetlands and lakes, and reduced tranquillity near Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell and major transport corridors including the M1, A6 and the West Coast Mainline. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be high.

South Northamptonshire Landscape Character Assessment

- 16.9.32 LCT 6 Undulating Claylands comprises a productive rural landscape of gently undulating elevated farmland dissected by shallow valleys, offering wide panoramic views and expansive horizons. Natural heritage value is supported by a mosaic of arable and pastoral land, and scattered hedgerow trees which, together with surrounding woodland. Cultural value is supported by the agriculture evident in ridge and furrow, moated sites, historic villages, along with remnants of the industrial age, including canals and disused railways, as well as designed parklands such as Easton Neston Park, Stoke Bruerne Park, and Castle Ashby. Scenic qualities are defined by the interplay

of open elevated farmland, woodland belts, and historic parkland landscapes that contribute to visual diversity and local distinctiveness. Recreational value is enhanced by parkland estates, canals, national trails, and cycle routes that provide access and enjoyment for local communities and visitors. Perceptual qualities are rural and tranquil, with a sense of connection to the historic and agricultural evolution of the landscape. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be medium.

16.9.33 LCT 10 Limestone Plateau is a gently undulating and elevated limestone plateau characterised by open, expansive views. Natural heritage value is supported by limited areas of calcareous grassland, small deciduous woodlands, and scattered shelterbelts that provide ecological interest. Cultural value reinforced by the extensive use of local limestone in buildings, walls, and field boundaries, which gives the landscape a distinct identity. Scenic qualities are defined by the open plateau landform, long-distance views, and geometric field pattern. Perceptual qualities are characterised by a sense of openness, exposure, and rural tranquillity, though influenced by sparse settlement, major road network, airfields and military infrastructure. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be medium.

16.9.34 As a result of design development no construction works will be undertaken within LCT 10. There is limited potential for indirect impacts from construction operations being undertaken in adjacent LCTs as result of distance and limited intervisibility. Therefore, LCT 10 Limestone Plateau has been scoped out of the assessment.

16.9.35 LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys is an extensive, undulating and productive rural landscape where mixed farming predominates. Natural heritage value is supported by native hedgerows, and numerous small woodlands, and shelterbelts that contribute to the perception of a well-wooded and ecologically diverse landscape. Watercourses and their associated riparian habitats also enhance the biodiversity interest. Scenic qualities are defined by the broad, gently rolling landform, intricate patchwork of fields, and the interplay between open farmland and wooded enclosure. Perceptual qualities are rural and tranquil though locally diminished by the influence of major transport routes and urban expansion. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be medium.

16.9.36 LCT 17 River Valley Floodplain comprises a flat, low-lying floodplain landscape contained by gently rising valley sides. Natural heritage value is supported by species-rich grassland, wet meadows, riparian habitats, and small copses along river, canal, and railway corridors that contribute to ecological interest within the open valley setting. Cultural value is expressed through remnants of ridge and furrow, historic parkland edges, and settlement patterns associated with traditional bridging points. Scenic qualities are characterised by wide and open views framed by surrounding

landform and intermittent woodland. Recreational value is provided by the network of footpaths, canal towpaths, and river corridors that offer access and varied experiences. Perceptual qualities are typically rural and tranquil, though locally influenced by nearby settlements, infrastructure, and road corridors that reduce the sense of remoteness. Taking all of these factors into account, the landscape value of the LCT is considered to be medium.

Visual Baseline

16.9.37 This section describes the visual baseline with reference to the visual receptors and representative viewpoints identified within the study area through a review of ZTVs, fieldwork surveys and consultation.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Analysis

16.9.38 In order to identify locations with potential to have views of the Proposed Development, the following ZTVs have been produced to inform the visual assessment:

- a. **Figure 16-P2&3-1:** Parts 2 & 3 Above Ground Infrastructure Zones of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features) (Sheets A to G, excluding Sheet D) in PEI Report in **Volume 3**; and
- b. **Figure 16-P2&3-2:** Parts 2 & 3 Pipelines Zones of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features) in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

16.9.39 The methodology used to produce the ZTVs is set out within **Appendix 16-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 4**. The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility of proposed above ground structures will generally be limited by intervening vegetation, structures and landform. Theoretical visibility for each proposed structure is as set out below:

- a. For the Atherstone outfall structure, visibility will be limited in close proximity as a result of landform and existing built form. There is potential visibility to the north-east and south-east, as a result of rising ground;
- b. The Springwood Transfer Lock Option 1 and Option 2 will be theoretically visible in close proximity as a result of landform and limited intervening vegetation. Views to the south-west for Option 1 will be limited by intervening vegetation;
- c. Theoretical visibility for the Hawkesbury Pumped Bypass will be very limited as a result of intervening vegetation;
- d. Theoretical visibility of the Grimes Bridge Transfer Lock will be extensive as a result landform and lack of intervening vegetation or structures;

- e. Theoretical visibility of the Hillmorton Pumped Bypass is extensive to the north and north-east and limited by intervening structures to the east. Intervening vegetation limits views in other directions;
- f. Theoretical visibility of the Braunston Pumped Bypass is limited by landform and intervening structures;
- g. Theoretical visibility of the Dodford Road Transfer Lock will be extensive as a result of landform and lack of intervening vegetation or structures;
- h. Theoretical visibility of the Fourth Transfer Lock Option 1 and 2 will be limited as a result of intervening vegetation and structures; and
- i. Theoretical visibility of the Fenny Stratford Pumped Bypass will be very limited as a result of intervening vegetation and structures.

16.9.40 The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility of the Part 2 Pipeline is fragmented and shaped by variations in local landform. Around Daventry, visibility tends to occur on more elevated or open ground to the north and north-east of the town, with limited theoretical visibility within the built-up area itself due to screening from settlement form and topography. Around Braunston, theoretical visibility is similarly restricted, occurring mainly on rising ground to the south and south-east of the village, with small and isolated pockets also present to the north, west and south-west.

16.9.41 The site survey found that visibility of proposed structures and the pipeline will be considerably reduced, with views in many locations entirely obscured by localised vegetation, field boundaries, intervening landform, and built form. At greater distances, where visible, the structures will appear visually recessive, further reducing their ability to be distinguished within the wider landscape pattern. Consequently, visibility from most receptors will be restricted, generally confined to isolated short sections where boundary vegetation or local topography opens up sufficiently to allow a view.

Representative Viewpoints

16.9.42 Through consultation with the relevant stakeholders, as part of the EIA Scoping process, detailed in **Appendix 16-PD-1** in PEI Report **Volume 4**, a total of 32 viewpoints were chosen, 13 of which fall with Part 2, to represent the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area.

16.9.43 The representative viewpoints have been selected to illustrate the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area as experienced from residents, recreational users, boaters and other waterway users including towpath users, road users and PRoW users. These representative viewpoints are described in **Table 16-23**, and their location illustrated on **Figure 16-P1A-3**, **Figure 16-P1B-2**, and **Figure 16-P2,3&4-2**

in PEI Report **Volume 3** and presented on **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

16.9.44 The full list of all potential viewpoints originally considered can be found in **Appendix 16-PD-3** in PEI Report **Volume 4**.

Table 16-23: Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
8	Outwoods Bridge (no. 38) over Coventry Canal, Atherstone	Recreational	A view from the Outwoods Bridge (no.38) over the Coventry Canal along the southern edge of Atherstone looking north-westwards. The immediate foreground includes the bridge parapet and canal, with dense woodland to the west providing strong screening and enclosing the view. To the east, the towpath runs alongside a tall, overgrown hedgerow that separates it from nearby residential properties in Atherstone, with rooflines and chimneys visible through gaps in the vegetation. The canal leads away from the bridge through the middle ground, enclosed by tree cover and hedgerows on both banks, limiting longer-distance visibility. A contained, semi-rural view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view. Viewpoint location to be moved to Clay Pits Bridge (no.39) as there is no view of the bank raising works and works associated with the outfall discharge structure and assessed as part of the ES.
9	Canal Farm Bridge (no.24) over the Coventry Canal	Residential, moorings and recreational	A view looking north-west from the Canal Farm Bridge (no.24) crossing the Coventry Canal, which connects to the towpath. The immediate foreground includes the bridge structure and canal, with woodland to the west providing strong screening and enclosing the view, and the towpath to the east edged by hedgerow and scattered trees. In the middle ground, grassland fields are visible with wooden poles and overhead lines extending across the scene into the background, generally sitting against the landform, while the railway further to the east is perceptible through vegetation. The background is defined by a woodland-covered hill, with wider landscape views largely curtailed by intervening landform and vegetation. A partially open, rural view with some scenic value, likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
10	Coventry Canal Towpath, Eastern Edge of	Residential, moorings and recreational	A view looking south-west from the canal towpath is dominated in the foreground by the Coventry Canal with a narrow grass verge and moored boats occupying both sides of the waterway. In the middle ground, a post-and-mesh fence defines the

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
	Hawkesbury Village		opposite canal edge, with grassland and scattered scrub beyond, bounded by hedgerows and occasional trees. Residential properties along the eastern edge of Hawkesbury Village are visible further back with tiled roofs emerging above intervening vegetation. In the background, pylons and overhead lines are visible to the southwest, with upper structures breaking the skyline. A semi-rural view likely to be appreciated at a local level, medium value view.
11	Wyken Arm Junction Bridge over the Oxford Canal.	Recreational	A view looking north from the Wyken Arm Junction Bridge over the Oxford Canal, with the parapet wall forming a horizontal feature in the immediate foreground. The canal runs centrally through the view, with open arable land extending from its edge. In the middle ground, the fields are bounded by hedgerows and scattered trees. A line of wood poles carrying overhead wires crosses the scene extending to the background. In the background, woodland blocks extend across the horizon, restricting longer-distance visibility, though intermittent gaps allow glimpsed views of residential properties along the western edge of Alderman's Green. Pylons and associated overhead lines, with upper structures breaking the skyline while lower sections are partly screened by intervening trees and hedgerows. A rural view, likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
12	Ansty Bridge (no.14) on the B4065 over the Oxford Canal.	Residential, moorings and recreational	A view looking north-west from the Ansty Bridge (no.14) on the B4065 over the Oxford Canal, with the parapet wall forming a horizontal feature in the immediate foreground. The canal runs centrally through the view, with a grass verge and towpath running alongside a residential property on the left bank along the northeast edge of Ansty, which is visible but partly filtered by intervening vegetation. The right bank is enclosed by trees and riparian vegetation, limiting outward visibility. Through a gap in the vegetation, a garden associated with a business property is also partially visible. In the middle ground, mature trees and riparian vegetation line the canal corridor, restricting longer views and containing the scene. The background is largely screened by woodland blocks and riparian vegetation, preventing visibility of wider landscape or built form.

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
			A contained, semi-rural view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view. As a result of design development, the viewpoint location will be moved to a location east of Ansty near to bank works and assessed as part of the ES.
13	Colehurst Lane adjacent to Grimes Bridge (no.26) over the Oxford Canal.	Recreational, residential and moorings	A view looking east from Colehurst Lane adjacent to the Grimes Bridge (no.26) over the Oxford Canal, with a narrow verge and hedgerow in the immediate foreground, with wooden poles and overhead lines visible across the full expanse of the view, sitting against the skyline. The middle ground is dominated by open arable fields bounded by hedgerows and scattered trees, with a line of wooden poles and overhead lines crossing east–west towards the background. A continuous line of mature trees and hedgerows defines the field boundaries in the distance, restricting longer views, though occasional gaps allow glimpsed visibility of settlement and farmland beyond. To the southeast, pylons and associated overhead lines are also visible, with towers partly screened by landform and vegetation and upper structures breaking the skyline. An attractive rural view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
14	Burtons Bridge (no.71) along The Locks over the Oxford Canal	Residential, moorings and recreational	A view looking north from the Burtons Bridge (no.71) along The Locks over the Oxford Canal, with railings in the immediate foreground and the canal running centrally through the view. The left bank contains a grass verge and towpath, while the right bank includes mooring facilities, boats, and a temporary structure, with further boats moored along both banks. The middle ground is enclosed by mature trees and vegetation, with a canal lock and lock gates visible. Overhead lines cross diagonally above the canal, sitting against the skyline and extending into the background. The background comprises rising landform and woodland towards a ridgeline, which restricts longer-distance visibility. A contained semi-urban view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
15	Braunston	Residential and moorings	Photography not undertaken at original location due to access. As a result of design development, the viewpoint location will be moved to an alternative location at Braunston and assessed as part of the ES.
19	Canal Lock at George Lane, Grand Union Canal	Recreational, residential and moorings	A view looking north-west from the canal lock located at George Lane on the Grand Union Canal with lock gates, associated structures, and hardstanding in the immediate foreground. The canal runs centrally through the view, contained by grass verges and stone edging. Hedgerows and tree cover form a continuous line along both banks, limiting outward visibility and enclosing the scene. Wooden utility poles and overhead lines run diagonally across the view, with upper wires sitting against the skyline. In the middle ground, a retail cottage property is visible on the right bank of the canal to the west, partly filtered by vegetation, while to the east, a gap in the tree cover allows views of the railway line and the M1, where vehicle movement is visible. A contained semi-urban view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
20	Towpath alongside the Grand Union Canal	Residential, moorings and recreational	A view looking north-west from the canal towpath alongside the Grand Union Canal with narrow vegetated margins alongside the towpath, and overhanging tree branches in the immediate foreground, partly framing and filtering the view. The canal runs centrally through the scene, bounded on the opposite bank by a concrete block wall with barbed wire and sections of timber fencing. To the west, a single-span brick arch bridge and several moored boats are visible, with the bridge structure limiting views beyond. To the east, the stone wall and fencing continue along the canal edge, with a block of woodland further enclosing the corridor and restricting longer-distance visibility. A contained semi-urban view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
21	PRoW off Bridge Road, Stoke Bruerne	Recreational, residential and moorings	No clear view during the summer months due to tree cover. Visibility will be reassessed at alternative location at Stoke Bruerne during winter and location reviewed. Photography and assessment will be included in ES.
22	Junction of Rural Lane off the A508 and Farm Track	Recreational and road user	A view looking south-east from the junction of a narrow rural lane off the A508 and a farm track, with the surfaced road, track entrance, and adjoining hedgerows in the immediate foreground. The middle ground comprises open arable fields bounded by hedgerows and scattered trees. Continuous hedgerows with occasional mature trees line the lane, restricting outward visibility towards the Grand Union Canal to the east. In the background, gently rolling farmland rises towards a ridgeline defined by mature trees and hedgerows, containing longer-distance views. A rural view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
23	PRoW near Canal Lock at Cosgrove Marina, Western Edge of Cosgrove	Recreational, residential and moorings	A view looking south-east from the PRoW and towpath along the Grand Union Canal looking towards the canal lock at Cosgrove Marina on the western edge of Cosgrove village. The immediate foreground comprises the unsurfaced path, lock gates, associated structures, and hardstanding. Boats moored adjacent to the lock introduce activity and movement within the scene. The canal runs centrally through the view, edged by grass verges. In the middle ground, open grassland extends beyond the canal, bounded by scattered mature trees and woodland blocks, while vegetation and tree cover on both sides enclose the canal corridor. In the background, tree canopies and woodland blocks form a continuous backdrop, restricting longer-distance views. A semi-urban view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
24	Towpath along the Grand Union Canal, Eastern Edge of Fenny Stratford	Recreational, residential and moorings	A view looking south from the towpath along the Grand Union Canal, with the gravel path, grass verge, and moored boats in the immediate foreground. The canal runs centrally through the view, edged by grass verges along the towpath side and enclosed by fencing and scattered trees on the offside, which screen most views beyond apart from the roofs and chimneys of residential properties visible along the

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
			eastern edge of Bletchley above the fence line. In the middle ground, additional boats and canalside properties including the Red Lion public house are visible, with wooden poles and overhead lines also present, partly breaking the skyline. The background comprises tree canopies and canalside properties, restricting longer-distance visibility. A semi-urban view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.

Future Baseline

- 16.9.45 As part of the future baseline scenario in the absence of the Proposed Development, it is anticipated that small amounts of development within existing settlement boundaries will have been constructed, but the general landscape character and features will remain in a similar condition as they are now. The wider study area will continue to be influenced by the presence of the agricultural landscape pattern, and existing major transport and infrastructure corridors.

Environmental Design, Standards and Management

- 16.9.46 Permanent above ground features will be designed following the Canalside Design Principles document which sets out design principles for all above ground buildings and structures required along the canal for the water transfer under three principal headings: Heritage & Cultural Value, Community Value and Environmental Value.
- 16.9.47 There are no further embedded environmental design, standards and/or management measures that are specific to Part 2 (Works to the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union canals) of the Proposed Development.

Assessment of Effects and Significance

- 16.9.48 This section provides the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects, including determining the level of significance, for Part 2 (Outfall and works to the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union Canals) of the Proposed Development. Where applicable, the requirement for additional mitigation measures and/or monitoring is identified to avoid, prevent, reduce, or if possible offset, any identified significant adverse effects on the environment.

Landscape Assessment

- 16.9.49 The assessments of landscape effects are presented in the following tables:
- a. **Table 16-24:** Landscape Sensitivity Assessment; and
 - b. **Table 16-25:** Assessment of Landscape Effects – National; and
 - c. **Table 16-26:** Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local.
- 16.9.50 The assessment of landscape effects on NCA 95: Northamptonshire Uplands is included in Part 3, section 16.10 for the assessment of effects on both the Daventry and Drayton reservoirs and the pipeline within Part 2, section 16.9 to prevent double counting of impacts.

Table 16-24: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Natural England National Character Areas			
NCA 72 Mease / Sence Lowlands	Medium	The gently rolling landform, open agricultural pattern, and limited woodland cover offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. Riparian vegetation along the Mease and Sence, areas of parkland, and historic features such as ridge and furrow and country house estates increase susceptibility in parts. The influence of major transport corridors and settlement edges at Nuneaton and Hinckley lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
NCA 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands	Medium	The presence of historic parklands, and designed estates such as Wimpole Hall, Wrest Park, and Stowe Park, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The lowland plateau, broad river valleys, and network of woodland clusters and riparian vegetation further increase susceptibility in places. The influence of major transport corridors, restored mineral workings and post-industrial features lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
NCA 89 Northamptonshire Vales	Medium	The presence of historic parklands, country houses, and well-preserved village cores with fine stone buildings and spired churches are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The gently undulating ridges and valleys, together with the river corridors of the Welland and Nene and associated wetland habitats, further increase susceptibility in parts. The influence of major transport infrastructure and large settlements such as Northampton and Wellingborough lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
NCA 91 Yardley Whittlewood Ridge	High	The ancient woodland and historic parkland including Royal Hunting Forests around Yardley Chase, Salcey Forest, and Whittlewood Forest, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of major transport corridors and railway lessens the susceptibility in parts. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be High.	High
NCA 94 Leicestershire Vales	Medium	The presence of historic landscape, including Bosworth Battlefield, prominent historic parklands, and historic settlements such as Wistow Hall and Knaptoft, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of large settlements such as Leicester and Hinckley, major transport infrastructure, and areas of gravel extraction lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
NCA 96 Dunsmore and Feldon	Medium	The gently undulating low hills, heathland plateaux, and clay vales, together with areas of ancient woodland, parkland, and remnants of Dunsmore Heath, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of major transport corridors, settlement edges around Coventry, Rugby, and Leamington Spa, and former quarrying activity lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
NCA 97 Arden	Medium	As set out in Part 1a Table 16-14 susceptibility is medium.	Medium
North Warwickshire Borough Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 3: Anker Valley	Medium	The varied valley landform, together with parkland landscapes around Grendon Park and Caldecote Hall and riparian features along the River Anker and Coventry Canal, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of major transport corridors including the A5, M42, and West Coast Main Line, together with	Medium

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
		nearby settlements such as Polesworth and Atherstone and former colliery sites, lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCA1 Hartshill Ridge	Medium	The prominent ridge and steeply rising landform of Caldecote Hill, together with the distinctive feature of Mount Jud and the exposed nature of the arable farmland, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The presence of Judkins Quarry, associated industrial activity, and existing infrastructure introduces a degree of modification that lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
LCA 2: Anker Valley Estate Farmlands	Medium	The gently undulating vale landform influenced by the River Anker, together with its network of riparian vegetation, hedgerows, and small field ponds, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The presence of urban edges around Weddington and Nuneaton, major transport corridors such as the A5, and dispersed farmsteads lessen the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
LCA 6: Nuneaton and Bedworth Urban Fringes.	Medium	The mosaic of grassland, woodland, and wetlands, together with the wetland character along rivers and low ground and the presence of the Coventry and Oxford canals, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of restored quarry land and urban fringes around Nuneaton and Bedworth, together with transport infrastructure and industrial edges, lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Coventry City Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCT 1: Industrial Arden	Low	The fragmented urban fringe character and pockets of farmland are attributes that offer capacity for the landscape to absorb change. The influence of former mining land, existing urban edges, and spoil heaps and transport corridors, lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be low.	Low
Rugby Borough Council's Landscape Character Types			
LCT 3: Dunsmore, Parklands	Medium	The gently rolling parkland landscape, with its well-wooded character defined by mature oak trees, woodland belts, and ancient woodlands, is an attribute which offers limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of intensive agriculture and areas of declining condition lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
LCT 4: Feldon, Ironstone Fringe	Medium	The gently rolling landscape, together with the prominent ironstone hills, ridge and furrow, and small nucleated ironstone villages, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The open, sparsely wooded character and expansive views across the landscape further increase susceptibility in parts. The influence of intensive agriculture lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
LCT 5: Feldon, Vale Farmlands	Medium	The broad, flat clay vales, intact geometric field pattern, permanent pasture with well-preserved ridge and furrow, and the sparse tree cover that allows wide, open views are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the proposed development. The presence of occasional clusters of farmsteads and dwellings lessens susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
LCT 7: High Cross Plateau, Open Plateau	High	The open, large-scale rolling plateau, broad valleys, and wide panoramic views, together with the sense of remoteness and absence of settlements and roads, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The smaller fields, ridge and furrow, and historic associations with deserted medieval villages further increase susceptibility in parts. The influence of shelterbelts, and occasional farmstead lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	High
LCT 8: High Cross Plateau, Village Farmlands	Medium	The permanent pasture with ridge and furrow, together with the narrow winding lanes and field ponds, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The high visibility across the rolling landform further increases susceptibility in parts. The presence of areas of more intensively farmed land lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	High
Daventry District Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 18a: The Nene – Long Buckby to Weedon Bec	Medium	The flat river valley floodplain, meandering course of the River Nene and its tributary, and the presence of pastoral parkland at Flore Park are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the proposed development. The influence of major transport corridors including the A5, A45, M1 and West Coast Mainline railway, together with canal-side infrastructure, sewage works and marinas lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the proposed development is considered to be medium.	Medium
LCA 19b: Vale of Rugby	Medium	The flat and expansive vale landform, wide panoramic views, limited woodland cover, and presence of historic features such as ridge and furrow, Conservation Area, canal corridors, and the parkland setting at Stanford Park are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The prominence of existing vertical structures such as wind turbines and overhead lines, together with the influence of major transport corridors	Medium

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
		including the M1, M45 and A14, and the DIRFT development with its associated large warehouse buildings. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	
Milton Keynes Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 3c: Ouse Lakes and Parkland Floodplains	High	The extensive wetland habitats, ecologically important floodplain grazing marsh, priority habitat deciduous woodland and the historic features associated with the River Ouse corridor, including Scheduled Monuments, historic crossing points and Conservation Area land at Newport Pagnell, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the proposed development. The influence of restored mineral workings, major transport corridors including the M1, A5 and West Coast Main Line, and the proximity of Milton Keynes and Newport Pagnell slightly lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	High
South Northamptonshire District Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCT 6: Undulating Claylands	Medium	The open elevated areas with wide panoramic views, together with the mosaic of arable and pastoral farmland, parkland landscapes, and historic features such as ridge and furrow, moated sites, and designed estates including Easton Neston Park, Stoke Bruerne Park, and Castle Ashby, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of scattered farmsteads and existing settlement edges lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
LCT 10: Limestone Plateau	Medium	The gently undulating limestone plateau, open arable character, and wide panoramic views, together with limited infrastructure and the visible relationship between local limestone geology and built form, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The sparse woodland cover, mature hedgerows, and strong rural simplicity further increase	Medium

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
		susceptibility in parts. The presence of airfields and military bases lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	
LCT 13: Undulating Hills and Valleys	Medium	The broad, undulating agricultural landscape with its strong hedgerow network, woodlands, and historic features such as ridge and furrow are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The intricate patchwork of fields, watercourses, and canals further increases susceptibility in parts. The influence of infrastructure, transport routes, and urban edges lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
LCT 17: River Valley Floodplain	Medium	The flat, open floodplain landscape, together with the river corridors, and small-scale mosaic of arable fields, grasslands, and occasional wet meadows, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The sparse woodland cover, parkland edges, and mature hedgerow and river-edge trees increase susceptibility in parts. The influence of surrounding settlements, infrastructure, and transport corridors lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium

Table 16-25: Assessment of landscape effects – National

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
NCA 72: Mease / Sence Lowlands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing major road infrastructure and urban development, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the majority of the land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. There will be a localised direct influence on the NCA associated with the proposed pumping stations and inlet control buildings along the canal corridor. The landform at the proposed pumping station and inlet control buildings sites will undergo minor permanent alteration due to small-scale earthworks. However, these will be viewed within the context of existing canal and industrial infrastructure, as well as nearby transport corridors. Minor adjustments to existing weirs and the installation of small above-ground panel kiosks will also be perceptible. However, these changes will not alter the overall perception or key characteristics of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
NCA 88: Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing major road infrastructure, railways, and former industrial activity, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the majority of the land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. There will be a localised direct influence on the NCA associated with the proposed pumping stations and inlet control buildings along the canal corridor. The landform at the proposed pumping station and inlet control building sites will undergo minor permanent alteration due to small-scale earthworks. However, these will be viewed within the context of existing canal and industrial infrastructure, as well as nearby transport corridors. Minor adjustments to existing weirs and the installation of small above-ground panel kiosks will also be perceptible. However, these changes will not alter the overall perception or key characteristics of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
NCA 89: Northamptonshire Vales	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing major infrastructure and large settlements, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. Minor adjustments to existing weirs and the installation of small above-ground panel kiosks will be perceptible. However, these changes will not alter the overall perception or key characteristics of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
NCA 91: Yardley Whittlewood Ridge	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing major transport corridors thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the majority of the land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. There will be a localised direct influence on the NCA associated with the proposed inlet control building for the gravity bypass along the canal corridor. The landform at the proposed inlet control building for the gravity bypass will undergo minor permanent alteration due to small-scale earthworks. However, these changes will be viewed within the context of existing canal and industrial infrastructure, as well as nearby transport corridors, and will therefore not alter the overall perception or key characteristics of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
NCA 94: Leicestershire Vales	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing major infrastructure and nearby settlements, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be no new above-ground permanent structures that will alter the existing landscape character of the NCA, and the majority of features temporarily affected during construction will be reinstated to their pre-construction condition. The Proposed Development will integrate with the surrounding landform and vegetation, retaining the character of the NCA. The operational site will be indistinguishable from the baseline, and impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
NCA 96: Dunsmore and Feldon	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing transport corridors, urban edges, and former quarry sites, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the majority of the land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. There will be a localised direct influence on the NCA associated with the proposed pumping stations and inlet control buildings along the canal corridor. The landform at the proposed pumping station and inlet control	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
building sites will undergo minor permanent alteration due to small-scale earthworks. However, these will be viewed within the context of existing canal and industrial infrastructure, as well as nearby transport corridors. Minor adjustments to existing weirs and the installation of small above-ground panel kiosks will also be perceptible. However, these changes will not alter the overall perception or key characteristics of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Table 16-26: Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
North Warwickshire Borough Council 's Landscape Character Areas	
LCA 3: Anker Valley	
Construction Phase Limited construction activity within this LCA, will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Coventry Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor to facilitate bank raising, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a very small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a broad valley landscape that already contains major transport routes, industrial features, and settlement edges, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the LCA. Construction compounds will be located within or adjacent to previously disturbed ground where riparian vegetation, regenerating woodland, and the gently undulating landform will provide partial visual containment. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be no new above-ground permanent structures that will alter the existing landscape character of the LCA, and the majority of features temporarily affected during construction will be reinstated to their pre-construction condition. The Proposed Development will integrate with the surrounding landform and vegetation, retaining the character of the LCA.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
The Proposed Development during operation will be indistinguishable from the baseline, and impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Reinstatement planting will be established providing landscape structure similar to baseline levels. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's Landscape Character Areas	
LCA 1: Hartshill Ridge	
Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Coventry Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will be viewed in the context of an upland ridge landscape already influenced by quarrying and industrial structures, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the LCA. Construction compounds will be located within or adjacent to previously disturbed ground where surrounding woodland along the canal and the varied landform will help to contain visibility.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the majority of land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. A localised, direct influence on the LCA will occur at the proposed Springwood Transfer Lock ⁷ along the canal corridor. The landform at the Transfer Lock site will undergo minor permanent alteration due to small-scale earthworks and the addition of new infrastructure and equipment. Minor adjustments to existing weirs and the installation of small above-ground panel kiosks will also be perceptible. However, these changes will not alter the overall perception or key characteristics of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
LCA 2: Anker Valley Estate Farmlands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Coventry Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

⁷ Two options (a north option and a south option) for locating the Springwood Transfer Lock are being explored. The Applicants' preferred solution is the south option.

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a shallow valley landscape characterised by arable fields that already contain transport corridors, industrial features, and settlement edges, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the LCA. Construction compounds will be located within or adjacent to previously disturbed ground where the gently undulating landform, roadside vegetation, and presence of nearby settlement edges will provide partial visual containment. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be limited above-ground permanent structures that will alter the existing landscape character of the LCA, and the majority of features temporarily affected during construction will be reinstated to their pre-construction condition. The Proposed Development will integrate with the surrounding landform and vegetation, retaining the character of the LCA. Minor adjustments to existing weirs, and the presence of a small above-ground panel kiosk, will be perceptible. These elements will be designed to be appropriate to the character and context of the existing canal infrastructure and will not noticeably alter the character of the canal corridor. The Proposed Development during operation will be indistinguishable from the baseline, and impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
LCA 6: Nuneaton and Bedworth Urban Fringes	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Coventry Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor , and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a gently undulating semi-rural landscape influenced by settlement fringes, quarrying, and existing infrastructure, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the LCA. Construction compounds will be located within or adjacent to previously disturbed ground, where wet woodland along the river, woodland belts, and undulating landform will provide partial visual containment. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the majority of the land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. There will be a localised direct influence on the LCA associated with the proposed Hawkesbury Pumped Bypass including associated infrastructure and inlet control buildings along the canal corridor. The landform at the proposed pumping station and inlet control building sites will undergo minor permanent alteration due to small-scale earthworks. However, these will be viewed within the context of existing canal and industrial infrastructure, as well as nearby transport corridors. Minor adjustments to existing weirs that occurred during the construction stage and the presence of small above-ground panel kiosks will be barely perceptible. However, these changes will not alter the overall perception or key characteristics of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Reinstatement planting will be established providing landscape structure similar to baseline levels. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Coventry City Council's Landscape Character Areas	
LCT 1: Industrial Arden	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCT. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Oxford Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a fragmented and managed urban fringe landscape already influenced by pockets of farmland, spoil heaps, transport corridors, and former industrial land, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the LCT. Construction compounds will be located within or adjacent to previously disturbed ground where boundary vegetation and the varied landform will provide partial visual containment. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be no new above-ground permanent structures that will alter the existing landscape character of the LCT, and the majority of features temporarily affected during construction will be reinstated to	No change (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
their pre-construction condition. The Proposed Development will integrate with the surrounding landform and vegetation, retaining the character of the LCT. The Proposed Development during operation will be indistinguishable from the baseline, and impacts are assessed to be no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to result in no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)
Rugby Borough Council's Landscape Character Areas	
LCT 3: Dunsmore Parklands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCT including those associated with the Grimes Bridge Transfer Lock and its construction compound. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Oxford Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a gently rolling and well-wooded landscape defined by woodland edges, parkland trees, and wooded streamlines, which will help contain the works and reduce their influence and the geographical extent of perceived change. Construction compounds will generally be located within or adjacent to existing access routes, farmland, or previously disturbed ground, where surrounding woodland, hedgerows, and belts of trees will provide a degree of visual containment. The influence of existing vegetation structure and rolling topography will further reduce visibility and limit the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCT.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be new structures associated with the Grimes Bridge Transfer Lock that will slightly alter the existing landscape character of the LCT. The majority of features temporarily affected during construction will be reinstated to their pre-construction condition. The Proposed Development will integrate with the surrounding landform and vegetation, retaining the character of the LCT. Minor adjustments to existing weirs, along with a small above-ground panel kiosk, will be barely perceptible. These elements will be seen in the context of existing canal infrastructure and will not noticeably alter the character of the canal corridor. The Proposed Development during operation will be indistinguishable from the baseline, and impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
LCT 4: Feldon, Ironstone Fringe	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCT. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Oxford Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a remote rural landscape characterised by large arable fields, strong hedgerow boundaries, and scattered manor farmsteads. These activities will not be dissimilar from agricultural works within the LCT, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of its key characteristics. The presence of construction compounds will result in an alteration on key characteristics in small parts of the LCT given the existing lack of built form. However, the compounds are often relatively contained by established hedgerow network and landform variations and set within the context of scattered farmsteads which lessen their influence and geographical extent of change perceived. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the majority of land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. A localised, indirect influence on the LCA will occur at the proposed Hillmorton Pumped Bypass within the adjacent LCT. However, these changes will not alter the overall perception or key characteristics of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
LCT 5: Feldon, Vale Farmlands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCT. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Oxford Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction activities, including those associated with the Hillmorton Pumped Bypass and the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a broad, low-lying agricultural landscape characterised by large geometric fields, hawthorn hedgerows, and sparse settlement. Construction compounds will generally be located within or adjacent to existing access routes or field boundaries where the established field pattern and boundary vegetation will provide a degree of visual containment and set within the context of scattered farmsteads which limit the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCT. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be a localised direct influence on the LCT associated with the proposed Hillmorton Pumped Bypass and inlet control buildings along the canal corridor. The landform at the pumping station sites will undergo permanent alteration due to small-scale earthworks and new infrastructure. Also, minor adjustments to existing weirs, along with the installation of a small above-ground panel kiosk, will be perceptible. These elements will be viewed in the context of existing canal infrastructure, resulting in a direct but very slight alteration over a limited area, without affecting the overall perception of the LCT. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
LCT 7: High Cross Plateau, Open Plateau	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCT including those associated with the proposed Grimes Bridge Transfer Lock. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Oxford Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within an open agricultural landscape characterised by rolling landform. The presence of construction compounds will have a slight alteration on these key characteristics in small parts of the LCT given the existing lack of built form. The compounds are often relatively contained by established hedgerow network and landform variations, as well as set within the context of scattered farmsteads which lessen their influence and geographical extent of change perceived. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration over a limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be a localised direct influence on the LCT associated with the Grimes Bridge Transfer Lock. The landform at the Grimes Bridge Transfer Lock will undergo permanent alteration due to small-scale earthworks. Due to the rolling topography of the LCT, views of the Proposed Development will be very limited, and these elements will be viewed in the context of existing farmsteads within the LCT, resulting in a direct but very slight alteration over a limited area, without affecting the overall perception of the LCT. Impacts are assessed to be low,	Minor adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCT 8: High Cross Plateau, Village Farmlands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will occur only within a very small and localised section of the LCT, limited to a very small section of indicative working areas. These works will involve small scale vegetation clearance, primarily affecting short stretches of canal verge. Any vegetation loss will be limited, temporary and reversible. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within pastoral and farmed landscape characterised by enclosed fields and clustered village settlements, and scattered farmsteads. Given the small scale of works and their similarity to the existing agricultural activity, the perception of change to the key characteristics of the LCT will be minimal. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a highly localised area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a very small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be no new above-ground permanent structures that will alter the existing landscape character of the LCT, and the majority of features temporarily affected during construction will be reinstated to their pre-construction condition. The Proposed Development will integrate with the surrounding landform and vegetation, retaining the character of the LCT.	No change (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
The Proposed Development during operation will be indistinguishable from the baseline, and impacts are assessed to be no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant) effect.	No change (not significant)
Daventry District Council's Landscape Character Areas	
LCA 18a: The Nene – Long Buckby to Weedon Bec	
Construction Phase Construction activity associated with Long Buckby Gravity Bypasses (Locks 7 to 9), Whilton Locks Gravity Bypasses (Locks 10 to 13), inlet and discharge structures, Dodford Transfer Lock, and bank raising will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Grand Union Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a river valley floodplain influenced by agricultural land use, settlements and transport corridors as well as and railway infrastructure along the floodplain margins, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of its key characteristics. Construction compounds will generally be located within or adjacent to existing access routes, field boundaries, or previously disturbed ground, where the riparian vegetation and hedgerow structure will provide a degree of visual containment. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the majority of the land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. A localised, direct influence on the LCA will occur at the proposed Dodford Transfer Lock and associated pumping stations along the canal corridor. The landform at the Transfer Lock site will undergo minor permanent alteration due to small-scale earthworks and associated new infrastructure. However, these changes will not alter the overall perception or key characteristics of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects are broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, , long term and permanent, which results in negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Milton Keynes Council's Landscape Character Area	
LCA 3c: Ouse Lakes and Parkland Floodplains	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Grand Union Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within low-lying river floodplain landscape characterised by riparian woodland, and open pasture field.	Negligible

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
The presence of construction compounds, including those associated with the Transfer Lock south of Cosgrove⁸ will have an alteration on these key characteristics in small parts of the LCA given the existing lack of built form. The compounds are often relatively contained by established woodland blocks and landform variations, as well as set within the context of occasional isolated farmsteads and the legacy of mineral extraction, which already influences land use and lessens their overall influence and the geographical extent of change perceived. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be new structures associated with the Transfer Lock south of Cosgrove, that will slightly alter the existing landscape character of the LCA. The majority of features temporarily affected during construction will be reinstated to their pre-construction condition. The Proposed Development will integrate with the surrounding landform and vegetation, retaining the character of the LCA. The Proposed Development during operation will be barely indistinguishable from the baseline, and impacts are assessed to be no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)

⁸ Note that the need for a Transfer Lock south of Cosgrove is being reviewed at this time. See **Chapter 3: Proposed Development** in PEI Report **Volume 2**.

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
South Northamptonshire District Council's Landscape Character Areas	
LCT 6: Undulating Claylands	
Construction Phase Construction activity associated with the proposed Stoke Bruerne Gravity Bypasses (Locks 14 to 15 and 16-20), Cosgrove Lock Gravity Bypass and intake and discharge structures will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Grand Union Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a rural landscape characterised by arable fields and pastoral enclosures. Construction compounds will generally be located within or adjacent to existing access routes, field boundaries, or previously disturbed ground, where the hedgerow network and woodland blocks will provide a degree of visual containment. The influence of existing scattered farmsteads will further limit the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCT. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be a localised direct influence on the LCT associated with the proposed Stoke Bruerne Gravity Bypasses (Locks 14 to 15 and 16-20), Cosgrove Lock Gravity Bypass and intake and discharge structures. The landform at the Proposed Development sites will undergo very slight alteration due to small-scale earthworks.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Due to the rolling topography of the LCT, views of the Proposed Development will be very limited, and the Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of existing farmsteads within the LCT, resulting in a direct but very slight alteration over a limited area, without affecting the overall perception of the LCT. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
LCT 13: Undulating Hills and Valleys	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCT. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Grand Union Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within an extensive, undulating agricultural landscape characterised by a mixed farmland, strong hedgerow enclosure, and scattered small woodlands. Construction compounds will generally be located within or adjacent to existing access routes, field boundaries, or previously disturbed ground, where the hedgerow network, small farm woodlands, and variations in topography will provide a degree of visual containment. The influence of nearby farmsteads and existing infrastructure and communication routes will further limit the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCT. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be no new above-ground permanent structures that will alter the existing landscape character of the LCT, and the majority of features temporarily affected during construction will be reinstated to their pre-construction condition. The Proposed Development will integrate with the surrounding landform and vegetation, retaining the character of the LCT. Minor adjustments to existing weirs, along with the installation of a small above-ground panel kiosk, will be perceptible. These elements will be seen in the context of existing canal infrastructure and will not noticeably alter the character of the canal corridor. The Proposed Development during operation will be indistinguishable from the baseline, and impacts are assessed to be no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)
LCT 17: River Valley Floodplain	
Construction Phase Construction activity associated with the proposed Cosgrove Lock Gravity Bypass, intake and discharge structures, bank raising, construction compound and Iron Trunk Aqueduct Works, will result in the introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Grand Union Canal, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a flat, low-lying floodplain landscape characterised by open farmland, wet meadows, and sparse woodland structure. Construction	Minor adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
compounds will generally be located within or adjacent to existing access routes, field boundaries, or previously disturbed ground, where riparian vegetation and localised variations in topography will provide some degree of containment. The influence of transport infrastructure and settlement edges will further limit the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCT. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCT. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be a localised direct influence on the LCT associated with the proposed Cosgrove Lock Gravity Bypass, intake and discharge structures, bank raising, construction compound and Iron Trunk Aqueduct Works. The landform at the Proposed Development sites will undergo very slight alteration due to small-scale earthworks. Due to the rolling topography of the LCT, views of the Proposed Development sites will be very limited, resulting in a direct but very slight alteration over a limited area, without affecting the overall perception of the LCT. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Visual Assessment

16.9.51 Potential visual effects of the Proposed Development in comparison with the future baseline visual context are considered for the representative viewpoints. The assessments contained within **Table 16-27** should be read in conjunction with **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3** which illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint.

Table 16-27: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint 8: Outwoods Bridge (no.38) over Coventry Canal		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRoW, canal and towpath, with near distance views along the enclosed canal corridor. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view, resulting in a medium susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium	Medium
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, views of activity associated with the proposed Atherstone outfall structure along the canal will be limited. Dense riparian vegetation in the front and middle ground, together with mature trees and understorey along both banks of the Coventry Canal, will screen most ground-level activity, restricting visibility to only occasional glimpses of movement and materials through gaps in the vegetation. Construction activity will be viewed in the context of the existing canal corridor, where built elements, towpath use, and nearby residential properties already contribute to a degree of activity and movement. As a result, the perceived scale and nature of change introduced by the temporary works will be limited. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 1 During operation, the proposed Atherstone outfall structure will be largely screened by the existing riparian vegetation and mature tree cover along the banks of the Coventry Canal. The intervening vegetation and landform will continue to screen the structure from most ground-level views, with only partial glimpses of the upper elements potentially visible through occasional gaps in the vegetation. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)

Operation Year 15 Effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 15 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 9: Canal Farm Bridge (no.24) near Canal Farm over the Coventry Canal		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include nearby residents, moorings and users of the footbridge, canal and towpath, with near distance views along the canal. Recreational users, residents and users of moorings are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the semi-rural view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall low value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	Medium	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed canal bank raising works will be visible when viewed towards the north-west within a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the background of the view. Construction activity at canal-bank level along the canal corridor will be visible in the foreground to back ground. Looking south-east from the viewpoint, a greater extent of the works will be visible from the bridge, with construction activity extending further along the canal corridor on both sides. However, the works will be viewed in the context of existing infrastructure and movement along the canal and railway corridor, as well as existing detracting features such as overhead lines and wooden poles, which will reduce the degree of visual contrast and the perceived scale of change. Localised removal of bankside vegetation will be required to facilitate access and construction; however, this will be limited in extent. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1		Minor adverse (not significant)

During operation, the completed canal bank raising works will result in subtle changes to the canal corridor visible within the foreground and middle ground of the view. The engineered bank profile and reinstated towpath will appear consistent with the existing canal alignment and materials, subject to the final bank raising method and detailed design. Any perceptible change to the view will be limited to the slightly altered bank form. Gaps in the hedgerow and tree planting, as a result of vegetation removal during the construction stage will result in a minimal change to the context of the overall view. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			
Operation Year 15 Effects would be broadly as described for Operation Year 1, however, over time the reinstated canal bank and towpath will become more visually integrated within the canal corridor, reducing contrast and perceptibility. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 15 is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.			Negligible adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 10: Coventry Canal Towpath, Eastern Edge of Hawkesbury Village			
Visual susceptibility to change		Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the canal (including moorings) and towpath, with medium distance views and residential receptors with close proximity ground floor and upper storey views along the canal. Recreational and residential users, and users of moorings are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.		Medium	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the indicative bank raising and proposed Hawkesbury Pumped Bypass including associated infrastructure and control building will be visible within a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, primarily along the canal edge in the middle ground.			Moderate adverse (significant)

The upper parts of construction activity will be noticeable, with ground-level activity visible as a result of vegetation removal to facilitate construction. This will extend construction activity along the canal edge. Localised removal of bankside vegetation will be required to facilitate access and construction and will result in the opening up of views towards the Oxford Canal to the south Views of construction activity for residential receptors to the north-west will be restricted by mature vegetation along the canal and limited to upper storey views. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.			
Operation Year 1 During operation, the indicative bank raising and proposed Hawkesbury Pumped Bypass including associated infrastructure and control building will be visible within a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The structure will be clearly visible as a result of the extensive tree removal during the construction stage. Areas of vegetation removed during construction will be reinstated, although some permanent vegetation loss will occur. The reinstatement planting will not be established at this stage. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to reduce, although on balance would remain at medium, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.			Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 15 Effects would broadly be as described for Operation Year 1. However, reinstated vegetation will have fully established, contributing to the integration of the new infrastructure in the view and the layered vegetation network of the surrounding landscape. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 15 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 11: Wyken Arm Junction Bridge over the Oxford Canal			
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor	
Receptors include users of the recreational route (which follows the towpath) and canal, with medium-distance views along the canal. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the rural view, resulting in a medium susceptibility. When	Medium	Medium	

combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.		
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed canal bank raising works will be visible across a moderate proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, primarily along the canal corridor in the foreground. Two associated compounds and their access points will also be directly visible across a large proportion of the view in the front ground, extending into the background. A notable extent of the works will be visible, introducing temporary engineering activity into the view. However, the works will be perceived within the context of existing infrastructure, including pylons, overhead lines and wooden poles, which will reduce the perceived scale and contrast of change. Localised removal of bankside vegetation will be required to facilitate access and construction; however, this will be minimal. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be high, over a large geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1 During operation, the completed canal bank raising works will result in subtle changes to the canal corridor visible in the middle ground of the view. The engineered bank profile and reinstated towpath will appear consistent with the existing canal character, alignment and materials. Any perceptible change to the view will be limited to the slightly altered bank form. Vegetation temporarily removed during construction will be reinstated, which will further lessen the degree of change. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 15 Effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. However, reinstated vegetation will have fully established. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 15 is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.		Negligible adverse (not significant)

Viewpoint 12: Ansty Bridge (no.14) on the B4065 over the Oxford Canal		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include nearby residents, moorings and users of the canal, towpath, and local road, with near distance views along the enclosed canal corridor. Residents typically have an expectation of appreciation of the semi-rural view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	Medium	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed canal bank raising works will be visible within a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, primarily along the canal corridor in the middle ground. The majority of construction activity will occur at canal-bank level within a contained canal corridor. The view is largely confined to the immediate foreground, with the canal curving to the left, restricting visibility toward the middle and background sections of the alignment. As a result, only a limited proportion of construction activity, machinery, and materials will be noticeable. Looking southeast from the viewpoint, a greater extent of the works will be visible from the bridge, with activity extending further along the canal corridor. Localised removal of bankside vegetation will be required to facilitate access and construction, however, this will be limited in extent. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a medium geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1 During operation, the completed canal bank raising works will result in subtle changes to the canal corridor visible within the foreground and middle ground of the view. The engineered bank profile and reinstated towpath will appear consistent with the existing canal alignment and materials. Any perceptible change to the view will be limited to the slightly altered bank form allowing more open views towards the canal as a result of vegetation lost during the construction stage.		Negligible adverse (not significant)

The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.			
Operation Year 15 At Operation Year 15 the canal bank will have - revegetated and there will be no discernible change from the baseline resulting in no impacts long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).			No change (not significant)
Viewpoint 13: Colehurst Lane adjacent to Grimes Bridge (no.26) over the Oxford Canal			
Visual susceptibility to change		Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include nearby residents, moorings, users of PRow, the canal and towpath with medium distance views across open arable fields. Recreational users, residents and users of moorings are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the rural view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.		Medium	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed Grimes Bridge Transfer Lock and associated compound will be directly visible within a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. This will include construction activity in the foreground and the construction compound extending into the middle ground. The construction works would displace an existing agricultural field enclosure and boundary hedgerow and introduce activity and movement in the foreground of the receptor, resulting in a pronounced temporary change to the composition of the view. However, the works will be viewed in the context of existing built elements and infrastructure, including scattered farmsteads, overhead lines and wooden poles, which will reduce the perceived scale and nature of change. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be high, over a large geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.			Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1			Moderate adverse (not significant)

During operation, there would be direct views of the proposed Grimes Bridge Transfer Lock, which would appear as a pronounced feature within the foreground and middle ground of the view. However, this visibility would be limited to a small part of the overall horizontal extent and would occur within an area already influenced by existing built elements and infrastructure, including scattered farmsteads, overhead lines, and wooden poles, which would reduce the degree of contrast. The introduction of the pumping station would not screen longer-distance views, as it would be set against landform extending into the background of the view. Parts of the hedgerows temporarily removed during construction would be reinstated although will be immature and will provide no noticeable improvement to the view. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be medium, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.			
Operation Year 15 Effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1, although the hedgerow planted during the construction stage would be established. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 15 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a minor adverse (not significant) effect			Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 14: Burtons Bridge (no.71) along The Locks over the Oxford Canal			
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor	
Receptors include nearby residents, users of moorings and users of the canal and towpath, with medium distance views along the canal. Residents and users of the moorings, the canal and towpaths typically have an expectation of appreciation of the view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	Medium	High	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed Hillmorton Pumped Bypass will be visible within a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, partially filtered by canalside vegetation and mature trees. Construction plant and machinery will be clearly visible in the middle ground as a result of vegetation removal to facilitate access. The activity will be viewed in the context of existing canal infrastructure, including the weir			Moderate adverse (significant)

and lock gates, and overhead lines crossing the scene, all of which reducing the degree of perceived scale and nature of change. Localised removal of vegetation will be required to facilitate access and construction. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.	
Operation Year 1 During operation, there will be partial views of the proposed Hillmorton Pumped Bypass control building in the middle ground. The lower parts of the structure will be partially screened by retained vegetation with only the uppermost elements of the structure likely to remain visible. The proposed canal works will permanently displace a small area of unmanaged grassland. Reinstated vegetation will not be established at this stage and will not provide any screening of structures. However, this visibility will be limited to a small part of the overall horizontal extent of the view and will occur within the same part of the view already influenced by distracting features, such as canal locks and overhead lines which reduces the degree of contrast. The proposals will not obstruct longer distance views of the surrounding landscape. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to slightly reduce although would remain at medium over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 15 Reinstatement planting will be established and will assist in screening or filtering the proposed structures within the view. The magnitude of impact at Operation year 15 is assessed to reduce to low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Viewpoint 19: Canal Lock at George Lane, Grand Union Canal⁹		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include nearby residents , moorings and users of the canal and towpath with near distance views along the canal. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view and residents and users of moorings typically have an expectation of the view resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	Medium	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed Lock 8 Gravity Bypass and its associated compound will be directly visible within a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. This will include construction activity in the foreground and the construction compound extending into the middle ground. Potential mature tree and vegetation removal in the foreground would increase the visibility of construction operations. The activity will be viewed in the context of existing infrastructure such as wooden poles and overhead lines which will reduce the degree of visual contrast and perceived scale of change. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be high, over a large geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which on balance, results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1 At Operation Year 1, the completed bypass works will result in changes to the canal corridor visible within the front ground of the view. The land used to construct the bypass will be reinstated, although replacement vegetation will be immature and provide no additional filtering of the structures at this stage. The view will be open, with views across the adjacent field, resulting in a noticeable change to the overall view.		Minor adverse (not significant)

⁹ Viewpoints 15, 16, 17 and 18 are considered in relation to Part 3, see section 16.10.

The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be medium, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			
Operation Year 15 Effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1, although the reinstated tree planting will be established providing some screening or filtering within the view. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 15 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 20: Towpath alongside the Grand Union Canal			
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor	
Receptors include nearby residents, moorings and users of the canal, towpath, and local roads, with near distance views along the canal. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view, resulting in a medium susceptibility and residents and users of moorings typically have an expectation of the view resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	Medium	High	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, the land will be used as a canal works area. Construction activity visible within the view will be very limited, as no physical construction operations will take place in this location. Any stored materials will occupy only a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and will be partially screened by intervening vegetation and the slightly elevated landform of the site. Localised vegetation removal may be required. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 1 During Operation Year 1, the land used for material storage associated with the canal bank-raising works will be reinstated, although will be immature at this stage.			Negligible adverse (not significant)

The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.			
Operation Year 15 At Operation Year 15 the land will have re-revegetated and there will be no discernible change from the baseline resulting in no impacts long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).			No change (not significant)
Viewpoint 22: Junction of Rural Lane off the A508 and Farm Track			
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor	
Receptors include users of the canal, towpath, and local road, with medium-distance views across arable fields. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view resulting in a medium susceptibility. When combined with the overall low value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Low	Medium	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed Stoke Bruerne Locks and its associated compound will be directly visible across a moderate proportion of the horizontal extent of the view in the foreground and middle ground. Potential mature tree removal in the middle ground would increase the visibility of construction operations. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be high, over a medium geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.			Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1 At Operation Year 1, the completed bypass works will result in changes to the arable fields visible within the foreground of the view. The land used to construct the bypass will be reinstated, although vegetation replacement will be immature and provide no additional filtering of the structures at this stage. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			Minor adverse (not significant)

Operation Year 15 Effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1, although the reinstated tree planting will be established providing some screening within the view. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 15 is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 23: Towpath near Canal Lock at Cosgrove Marina, Western Edge of Cosgrove		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include nearby residents, moorings and users of the canal, towpath, with near distance views along the canal. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view, resulting in a medium susceptibility and residents and users of moorings typically have an expectation of the view resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	Medium	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed Cosgrove Lock gravity bypass and compound area will be visible within the middle ground of the view, on the opposite side of the canal adjacent to the weir. The works will extend across a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and will be seen in the context of existing canal infrastructure and lock operations, which will reduce the degree of contrast. Potential mature tree removal in the middle ground would increase the visibility of construction operations. Construction activity associated with the proposed canal bank-raising works will be visible for recreational receptors and users of the canal, including residents upon boats, as they move towards the background of the view as the canal bends beyond the lock. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1		Minor adverse (not significant)

At Operation Year 1, the completed bypass works will result in changes to the canal corridor visible within the middle ground of the view. The land used to construct the bypass will be reinstated, although vegetation will be immature and provide no additional filtering of the structures at this stage. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			
Operation Year 15 Effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1, although the reinstated tree planting will be established providing some screening within the view. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 15 is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.			Negligible adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 24: Towpath along the Grand Union Canal, Eastern Edge of Fenny Stratford			
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor	
Receptors include nearby residents, moorings and users of PRow, the canal and towpath, with near distance views along the canal. Residents and users of moorings typically have an expectation of enjoyment of the view and recreational receptors are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	Medium	High	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed Fenny Stratford Pumped Bypass will be visible in a small part of the horizontal extent. The majority of construction activity including the compound to the south, will be screened by existing structures along the canal towpath, with only occasional glimpses of upper elements of plant or temporary structures potentially perceptible. Construction activity associated with the proposed bypass pipeline route will be visible along the towpath in the middle ground, occupying a small to moderate proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. However, this will			Moderate adverse (significant)

be seen in the context of the existing canal corridor, where built elements, towpath use, and nearby residential properties already contribute to a degree of activity and movement. As a result, the perceived scale and nature of change introduced by the temporary works will be slightly reduced. Localised vegetation clearance will be required. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.	
Operation Year 1 During operation, there will be limited views of the proposed Fenny Stratford Pumped Bypass control building in the middle ground. The development will be largely screened by the intervening hedgerow and tree line, as well as by existing buildings along the canal towpath, with only very limited upper elements potentially perceptible through gaps in the vegetation. The proposed works will permanently displace a small area of unmanaged grassland and vegetation. However, this visibility will be limited to a small part of the overall horizontal extent of the view and will occur within the same part of the view already influenced by distracting features, such wooden poles and overhead lines which reduces the degree of contrast. Reinstated tree and shrub planting will be immature providing no additional screening or filtering of structures. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 15 Effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1, although the reinstated tree planting will be established providing some screening or filtering within the view. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 15 is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Additional Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring

16.9.52 Significant adverse visual effects have been assessed for nine representative viewpoints during construction as a result of the close distance to the Proposed Development and the scale of construction operations. No additional mitigation has been identified to date to reduce the assessed impacts during construction and operation. This will be reviewed for the assessment reported in the ES.

Summary

16.9.53 **Table 16-28** summarises the significant residual visual effects of the Proposed Development, following the implementation of any identified additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring. No significant adverse landscape effects have been identified.

Table 16-28: Summary of significant residual effects – Part 2

Description of impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Nature of effect / geographic scale	Magnitude of impact	Initial classification of effect (with embedded control)	Additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring	Residual effect significance
Construction Phase						
Viewpoint 9: Canal Farm Bridge (no.24) near Canal Farm over the Coventry Canal	High	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 10: Coventry Canal Towpath, Eastern Edge of Hawkesbury Village	High	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 11: Wyken Arm Junction Bridge over the Oxford Canal	Medium	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	High	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 12: Ansty Bridge (no.14) over the Oxford Canal	High	Long-term temporary noticeable change to the	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)

Description of impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Nature of effect / geographic scale	Magnitude of impact	Initial classification of effect (with embedded control)	Additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring	Residual effect significance
		composition of the view				
Viewpoint 13: Colehurst Lane adjacent to Grimes Bridge (no.26) over the Oxford Canal	High	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	High	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 14: Burtons Bridge (no.71) along The Locks over the Oxford Canal	High	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	The potential for the reduction of vegetation removed during the construction stage. Although not confirmed so no change to residual effects identified.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 19: Canal Lock at George Lane, Grand Union Canal	High	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	High	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)

Description of impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Nature of effect / geographic scale	Magnitude of impact	Initial classification of effect (with embedded control)	Additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring	Residual effect significance
Viewpoint 22: Junction of Rural Lane off the A508 and Farm Track	Medium	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	High	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 23: Towpath near Canal Lock at Cosgrove Marina, Western Edge of Cosgrove	High	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	High	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 24: Towpath along the Grand Union Canal, Eastern Edge of Fenny Stratford	High	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Phase (Year 1)						
Viewpoint 10: Coventry Canal Towpath, Eastern Edge of Hawkesbury Village	High	Long-term prominent change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)

Description of impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Nature of effect / geographic scale	Magnitude of impact	Initial classification of effect (with embedded control)	Additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring	Residual effect significance
Viewpoint 13: Colehurst Lane adjacent to Grimes Bridge (no.26) over the Oxford Canal	High	Long-term prominent change to the composition of the view	High	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 14: Burtons Bridge (no.71) along The Locks over the Oxford Canal	High	Long-term prominent change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	The potential for the reduction of vegetation removed during the construction stage. Although not confirmed so no change to residual effects identified.	Moderate adverse (significant)

Part 3: Works to Daventry and Drayton Reservoirs

16.10 Part 3: Works to Daventry and Drayton Reservoirs

16.10.1 This section provides a focussed description of the environmental baseline, embedded environmental design, standards and management measures (if in addition to the aforementioned) and presents the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects in relation to landscape and visual impacts for Part 3 (Works to Daventry and Drayton Reservoirs) of the Proposed Development.

Baseline Conditions

16.10.2 This section describes the baseline environmental characteristics with specific reference to landscape and visual amenity.

Existing Baseline

Landscape Baseline

16.10.3 A summary of the relevant characteristics of the NCAs, LCTs / LCAs within the study area are described below and presented in **Figure 16-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

National Character Areas

16.10.4 At the national level, the study area falls within NCA 95: Northamptonshire Uplands (Ref. 24).

16.10.5 NCA 95 Northamptonshire Uplands is a landscape of gently rolling hills, long ridgelines, and valleys, with wide views from higher ground. The dominant Jurassic geology, including limestone, Lias clay, and ironstone formations, shapes the landform and supports varied soils. Sparse but visually prominent broadleaved woodlands, hedgerow trees, and pockets of semi-natural habitat contribute to the natural heritage value. Historic parklands, ridge and furrow, shrunken settlements, and historic country estates enhance the cultural value. Recreational assets include historic parks and gardens open to the public, reservoirs, long-distance trails such as the Jurassic Way, and the Grand Union and Oxford canals, which provide well-used routes. Perceptual qualities are generally rural and scenic, though locally diminished by major transport corridors and recent village expansion. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Local Landscape Character Areas

16.10.6 At the local level, landscape character is identified by South Northamptonshire Council's Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 31).

16.10.7 The South Northamptonshire Landscape Character Assessment includes LCT which are then subdivided into LCA, the descriptions of which are included below for the relevant LCA.

16.10.8 LCA 13b Daventry is an undulating rural landscape defined by a series of river valleys, distinctive hills and extensive woodland that shape views and create a varied and well-treed character. Natural heritage value is supported by the network of river valleys, reservoirs, lakes, woodland blocks, and riparian vegetation along canals and watercourses, which together create a biodiverse and ecologically rich landscape. Cultural value is high, reflected in prominent heritage features such as extensive ridge and furrow, historic parklands and registered landscapes at Ashby St Ledgers. Scenic qualities are defined by the varied landform, wooded skylines, prominent hills and long views from elevated points. The combination of hedgerows, woodland, and water features contributes to a visually rich and distinctive rural landscape. Perceptual qualities are generally rural and tranquil, with a peaceful character across much of the area, although locally influenced by the fringes of Daventry, warehousing near Watford Gap, and movement associated with major roads. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be high.

Visual Baseline

16.10.9 This section describes the visual baseline with reference to the visual receptors and representative viewpoints identified within the study area through a review of ZTVs, fieldwork surveys and consultation.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Analysis

16.10.10 In order to identify locations with potential to have views of the Proposed Development, the following ZTVs have been produced to inform the visual assessment:

- a. **Figure 16-P2&3-1:** Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Parts 2 & 3 Above Ground Infrastructure (Sheet D) in PEI Report **Volume 3**; and
- b. **Figure 16-P2&3-2:** Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Parts 2 & 3 Pipelines in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

16.10.11 The methodology used to produce the ZTVs is set out within **Appendix 16-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 4**. The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility of the Braunston Pumped Bypass will be limited by surrounding built form, local topography and vegetation, including areas of tree planting along the discussed railway. Site survey found that visibility is further reduced by localised intervening vegetation along the canal, resulting in only occasional or filtered views towards the Braunston Pumped Bypass.

16.10.12 The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility of the construction of the Part 3 Pipeline is fragmented and largely influenced by variations in local landform. Visibility of the Proposed Development tends to occur on more elevated or open ground to the north-east of Daventry and to the south-east of Braunston, while areas enclosed by settlement and woodland blocks

have relatively little theoretical visibility. Site survey found that visibility will be considerably reduced, with views in many locations partially or entirely obscured by localised vegetation, field boundaries, intervening landform, and built form. Consequently, visibility for most receptors will be limited and generally confined to isolated short sections where boundary vegetation or local topography opens sufficiently to allow a view.

Representative Viewpoints

- 16.10.13 Through consultation with the relevant stakeholders, as part of the EIA Scoping process, detailed in **Appendix 16-PD-1** in PEI Report **Volume 4**, a total of 32 viewpoints, four of which are located within Part 3, were chosen to represent the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area.
- 16.10.14 The representative viewpoints have been selected to illustrate the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area as experienced from the representative viewpoints have been selected to illustrate the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area as experienced from recreational users and PRoW users. These representative viewpoints are described in **Table 16-29**, and their location illustrated on **Figure 16-P1A-3**, **Figure 16-P1B-2**, and **Figure 16-P2,3&4-2** in PEI Report **Volume 3** and presented on **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.
- 16.10.15 The full list of all potential viewpoints originally considered can be found in **Appendix 16-PD-3** in PEI Report **Volume 4**.

Table 16-29: Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
15	Braunston	Recreational and moorings	Photography not undertaken at original location due to access. As a result of design development, the viewpoint location will be moved to the canal towpath near to the bank works and assessed as part of the ES.
16	PRoW off Dexter Lane	Recreational	A view looking east from the PRoW off Osprey Drive along the western edge of Daventry Country Park, with the surfaced path, grass margins, and open grassland in the immediate foreground. The middle ground is characterised by grassland meadows bounded by tree belts and hedgerows, with scattered young tree planting also visible. In the background, continuous woodland belts and tree blocks enclose the view and restrict longer-distance visibility. A contained view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
17	Top of Daventry Reservoir Embankment, Northern Edge of Daventry Country Park	Recreational	A view looking east from the top of the Daventry Reservoir embankment along the northern edge of Daventry Country Park and the northeastern edge of Daventry, with the surfaced footpath, grass verges, and benches in the immediate foreground, and stone and rock reinforcement along the reservoir edge. The reservoir dominates the middle ground to the south with open water and edge vegetation, while to the north wetland areas, marginal vegetation, hedgerows, and woodland blocks extend beyond the embankment slope. In the background, woodland blocks and scattered trees define the horizon, restricting longer-distance visibility, with gently rising landform and vegetation visible beyond the reservoir. Pylons and overhead lines are visible in the distance running northeast to southwest across the background, with upper structures breaking the skyline and lower sections partly screened by landform. A waterside view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
18	Northern Edge of Drayton Reservoir,	Residential	A view looking south-east from the northern edge of Drayton Reservoir along the northwestern edge of Daventry, with fencing, scrub vegetation, and sailing

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
	Northwestern Edge of Daventry		equipment in the immediate foreground, alongside the sloping embankment and shoreline retaining walls. Temporary structures, including portable toilets and storage units, are present on the left embankment in front of a woodland block, with occasional glimpses of the A361 and moving vehicles visible through gaps in the vegetation. The middle ground is dominated by the open water surface, bounded by sloping engineered embankments with areas of scrub and marginal vegetation. In the background, a continuous line of mature trees encloses the far shoreline, forming a wooded horizon with occasional rooftops of properties in Daventry glimpsed through gaps. A waterside view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.

Future Baseline

- 16.10.16 As part of the future baseline scenario in the absence of the Proposed Development, it is anticipated that small amounts of development within existing settlement boundaries will have been constructed, but the general landscape character and features will remain in a similar condition as they are now. The wider study area will continue to be influenced by the presence of existing major transport routes and mineral workings.

Environmental Design, Standards and Management

- 16.10.17 There are no further embedded environmental design, standards and/or management measures that are specific to Part 3 (Daventry and Drayton Reservoirs) of the Proposed Development.

Assessment of Effects and Significance

- 16.10.18 This section provides the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects, including determining the level of significance, for Part 3 (Daventry and Drayton Reservoirs) of the Proposed Development. Where applicable, the requirement for additional mitigation measures and/or monitoring is identified to avoid, prevent, reduce, or if possible offset, any identified significant adverse effects on the environment.

Landscape Assessment

- 16.10.19 The assessments of landscape effects are presented in the following tables:
- a. **Table 16-30:** Landscape Sensitivity Assessment;
 - b. **Table 16-31:** Assessment of landscape effects – National; and
 - c. **Table 16-32:** Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local.

Table 16-30: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Natural England National Character Areas			
NCA 95: Northamptonshire Uplands	Medium	The gently rolling hills, prominent ridgelines, historic parklands, mature hedgerow trees, and ridge and furrow are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. Historic estates such as Althorp and Cottesbrooke Hall, combined with the network of nucleated villages and locally distinctive materials, further increases susceptibility in parts. The influence of major transport corridors, mineral workings in the Upper Nene Valley, and existing urban extensions lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
Daventry District Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 13b: Daventry	Medium	The undulating landform, river valleys, and presence of prominent hills, together with historic parklands, ridge and furrow, and Conservation Area at Ashby St Ledgers, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the proposed development. The extensive tree cover from woodland blocks, parkland, and hedgerow trees, combined with the strong rural character, further increases susceptibility in parts. The influence of major transport corridors, existing development at Daventry, and localised urban and industrial features lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the proposed development is considered to be medium.	Medium

Table 16-31: Assessment of landscape effects – National

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
NCA 95: Northamptonshire Uplands	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing major transport corridors and urban development, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration within localised areas without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. The land associated with the pipeline works will be reinstated, with grassland, hedgerow and tree planting that will be beginning to establish. The Proposed Development during operation will be largely indistinguishable from the baseline, resulting in no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to result in no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	

Table 16-32: Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's Landscape Character Areas	
LCA 13b: Daventry	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the Grand Union Canal and around Drayton and Daventry Reservoirs, primarily affecting narrow strips of vegetation along the canal and towpath corridor, and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Localised vegetation clearance will also be required along the former Weedon–Leamington Spa railway line between Daventry and Braunston. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within an extensive, undulating rural landscape characterised by mixed farmland, strong hedgerow patterns, and small woodlands. Construction compounds will be located within or adjacent to previously disturbed ground where hedgerows, small woodland blocks, and subtle variations in topography will help to contain visibility. The presence of farmsteads and transport corridors further reduces their influence and geographical extent of change perceived. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration within localised areas without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Operation (Year 1) During operation, there will be a direct impact on the LCA as a result of the proposed Braunston Bypass and permanent structures at Drayton Reservoir that will slightly alter the existing landscape character of the LCA. Vegetation removed at the construction stage to facilitate the pipeline works will be immature at this stage. The Proposed Development during operation will be indistinguishable from the baseline, and impacts are assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) At Operation Year 15 the reinstated planting will have established and will be largely indistinguishable from the baseline. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Visual Assessment

16.10.20 Potential visual effects of the Proposed Development in comparison with the future baseline visual context are considered for the representative viewpoints. The assessments contained within **Table 16-33** should be read in conjunction with **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3** which illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint.

Table 16-33: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint 16: PRow off Osprey Drive, Western Edge of Daventry Country Park		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include recreational users within Daventry Country Park, with near distance views across grassland meadows enclosed by tree belts. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view, resulting in a medium susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium	Medium
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the proposed Daventry and Drayton Reservoirs pipeline route will dominate the horizontal extent of the view. Construction activity will be visible within the open grassland extending from the foreground across the wider landscape. Longer distance will be partially screened by intervening hedgerows and woodland belts in the middle ground and background. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route and working area, resulting in the loss of mature trees and vegetation within the view. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be high, over a large geographical extent, long-term and temporary which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1 During Operation Year 1, the land associated with the Proposed Development will be reinstated, although reinstated vegetation will be immature at this stage. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be medium, over a medium geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 15 At Operation Year 15 the land will have revegetated and there will be indistinguishable from the baseline. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.		Negligible adverse (not significant)

Viewpoint 17: Daventry Reservoir Embankment, Northern Edge of Daventry Country Park		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include recreational users within Daventry Country Park, with medium-distance views across the reservoir and surrounding landscape. Recreational users within the Country Park are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	Medium	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction Construction operations located in the north-eastern edge of the Daventry Reservoir including works to the bank and construction compound will be clearly visible in the middle ground of the view. Activity and plant associated with the proposed Daventry and Drayton Reservoirs pipeline route will be largely screened by intervening woodland, hedgerows, and marginal vegetation in the middle ground. Construction activity associated with the proposed discharge structure will be visible in the background of the view, within and against existing vegetation. Where visible, the nature of the works be viewed in the context of other vertical features visible in the background. Localised vegetation clearance will be required within the construction area and compound area, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Potential mature tree removal would increase the visibility of construction operations. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1 During Operation Year 1, the land associated with the Proposed Development will be reinstated, although reinstated vegetation will be immature at this stage. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)

Operation Year 15 At Operation Year 15 planting and grassland will have established and there will be limited change from the baseline. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 18: Northern Edge of Drayton Reservoir, Northwestern Edge of Daventry		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include nearby residents and recreational users at the reservoir edge, with medium distance views across the open water and surrounding embankments. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view and residents have an expectation of enjoyment of the view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	Medium	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed siphon chamber and pipe. will be visible across a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view in the middle ground. The visibility of construction activity will be partially filtered by existing fencing, scrub vegetation, and structures along the reservoir edge. The works will be intermittently visible and experienced within the context of existing activity and movement around the reservoir, including sailing equipment, portable toilets, storage units, and nearby road traffic visible on the A361 through vegetation, all of which will reduce the degree of contrast. Localised vegetation clearance will be required within the construction area and compound area, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Potential mature tree removal would increase the visibility of construction operations. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)

Operation Year 1 During Operation Year 1, the land associated with the Proposed Development will be reinstated, although will be immature and provide no screening at this stage. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 15 At Operation Year 15 reinstated vegetation will have established and will be indistinguishable from the baseline resulting in no impacts long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)

Additional Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring

- 16.10.21 Significant adverse visual effects have been assessed for one representative viewpoint during construction as a result of the close distance to the Proposed Development and the scale of construction operations. No additional mitigation has been identified to date to reduce the assessed impacts during construction. This will be reviewed for the assessment reported in the ES.

Summary

- 16.10.22 **Table 16-34** summarises the significant residual visual effects of the Proposed Development, following the implementation of any identified additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring. No significant adverse landscape effects have been identified.

Table 16-34: Summary of significant residual effects – Part 3

Description of impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Nature of effect / geographic scale	Magnitude of impact	Initial classification of effect (with embedded control)	Additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring	Residual effect significance
<i>Construction Phase</i>						
Viewpoint 16: PRoW off Osprey Drive, Western Edge of Daventry Country Park	Medium	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	High	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 17: Daventry Reservoir Embankment, Northern Edge of Daventry Country Park	High	Long-term temporary prominent change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage	Moderate adverse (significant)

Part 4a: Abstraction, Storage and Treatment

16.11 Part 4a: Abstraction, Storage and Treatment

16.11.1 This section provides a focussed description of the environmental baseline, embedded environmental design, standards and management measures (if in addition to the aforementioned) and presents the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects in relation to landscape and visual impacts for Part 4a (Abstraction, Storage and Treatment) of the Proposed Development.

Baseline Conditions

16.11.2 This section describes the baseline environmental characteristics with specific reference to landscape and visual amenity.

Existing Baseline

Landscape Baseline

16.11.3 A summary of the relevant characteristics of the NCAs, LCTs / LCAs within the study area are described below and presented in **Figure 16-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

National Character Areas

16.11.4 At the national level, the study area falls within parts of the following NCA:

- a. NCA 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands (Ref. 19); and
- b. NCA 90 Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge (Ref. 21).

16.11.5 NCA 88 is a gently undulating lowland plateau, underlain by clays and glacial deposits and dissected by shallow river valleys and man-made features. Woodland cover is variable, with secondary woodlands, plantations, and scattered ancient woodlands on higher ground contributing to natural heritage value. Predominantly arable of planned and regular fields, are interspersed with wetland habitats, restored gravel pits, and river corridors supporting a range of species. Historic parklands, country houses, and archaeological features, including Roman roads and Second World War heritage, enhance cultural value. Recreational assets such as Grafham Water, the Grand Union Canal, woodland sites, and National Cycle Routes support public access and enjoyment. While perceptual qualities are locally affected by major roads, railways, and former industrial activity, the landscape retains a recognisable rural character. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

16.11.6 The baseline description and assessment for NCA 90 Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge is included in Part 4b, section 16.12.

Local Landscape Character Areas

16.11.7 At the local level, landscape character is identified by Aylesbury Vale District Council & Buckinghamshire County Council (2008) Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 32).

16.11.8 LCA 5.2 Ouzel Valley lies within the Brickhills Area of Attractive Landscape as designated in the Aylesbury Vale Local Plan. This LCA is a flat, valley-bottom landscape defined by the meandering River Ouzel and the adjacent Grand Union Canal. Natural heritage value is supported by aquatic habitats along the river and canal, unimproved pasture in the north, extensive neutral grassland in the south, small woodland parcels, scattered willow and ash belts, and a fragment of fen, which together provide ecological diversity and habitat connectivity. Cultural value is reflected in the historic flood meadows, pre-18th-century enclosure, former mill sites, Roman and prehistoric remains linked to Magiovinium, and the Grand Union Canal with its listed bridges and locks. Scenic qualities are characterised by small to medium hedged fields, distinctive mature tree belts along the canal, and open views to the Ouzel valley slopes and Brickhills Scarp. Perceptual qualities are generally rural and tranquil, though locally influenced by visible infrastructure and traffic movement along the A4146, Stoke Hammond Bypass. Taking all of these factors into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be high.

16.11.9 LCA 5.3 Ouzel Valley Lower Slopes lies within the Brickhills Area of Attractive Landscape. This LCA comprises gently sloping valley sides characterised by large arable fields, small woodland parcels, and shelter belts enclosed by a network of narrow lanes. Natural heritage value is limited, reflecting the dominance of arable land, fragmented hedgerows, sparse hedgerow trees and very small patches of grassland, with habitat connectivity mainly provided by streams and field boundaries. Cultural value is reflected in the Parliamentary and 19th-century enclosure field pattern that defines much of the landscape structure. Scenic qualities are derived from the open, elevated views across the valley, though locally influenced by the visibility of Milton Keynes and traffic movement along the A4146. Perceptual qualities are generally rural but weakened in parts by arable intensification and hedgerow loss. Taking all of these factors into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be medium.

Visual Baseline

16.11.10 This section describes the visual baseline with reference to the visual receptors and representative viewpoints identified within the study area through a review of ZTVs, fieldwork surveys and consultation.

Representative Viewpoints

16.11.11 Through consultation with the relevant stakeholders, as part of the EIA Scoping process, detailed in **Appendix 16-PD-1** in PEI Report **Volume 4**, a total of 32 viewpoints, of which two lie within Part 4a, were chosen to represent the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area.

- 16.11.12 The representative viewpoints have been selected to illustrate the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area as experienced from recreational users. These representative viewpoints are described in **Table 16-35**, and their location illustrated on **Figure 16-P1A-3**, **Figure 16-P1B-2**, and **Figure 16-P2,3&4-2** in PEI Report **Volume 3** and presented on **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.
- 16.11.13 The full list of all potential viewpoints originally considered can be found in **Appendix 16-PD-3** in PEI Report **Volume 4**.

Table 16-35: Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
25	PRoW off the A4146 and Galley Lane Roundabout.	Recreational	A view looking south-west from a PRoW at the edge of an arable field, accessed via an entrance off the roundabout junction between the A4146 and Galley Lane, with overgrown vegetation surrounding the entrance. The immediate foreground comprises cultivated ground with emerging crop growth. The middle ground is defined by continuous hedgerows that restrict outward views, with the adjacent A4146 screened but perceptible through movement and traffic noise. The upper parts of street lighting columns are visible above the hedgerow line, breaking the skyline. Overall, an enclosed low-quality view heavily influenced by nearby traffic. Overall, a medium value view.
26	Mill Lane Farm Track Junction	Recreational	A view looking north from a road junction on Mill Lane with a farm access track, with the road surface, grass verges, and hedgerow vegetation in the immediate foreground. Wooden poles and associated overhead lines run along Mill Lane, extending from the foreground across the field into the middle ground, sitting against the skyline. A field gate set within the hedgerow provides an opening allowing views across arable land to the west. Long-distance visibility is generally curtailed due to landform and vegetations in the background of the view. A rural view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a low value view.

Future Baseline

- 16.11.14 As part of the future baseline scenario in the absence of the Proposed Development, it is anticipated that small amounts of development within existing settlement boundaries will have been constructed, but the general landscape character and features will remain in a similar condition as they are now. The wider study area will continue to be influenced by the presence of the agricultural landscape pattern, and existing major transport corridors.

Environmental Design, Standards and Management

- 16.11.15 There are no further embedded environmental design, standards and/or management measures that are specific to Part 4a (Abstraction, Storage and Treatment) of the Proposed Development.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Analysis

- 16.11.16 In order to identify locations with potential to have views of the Proposed Development, a ZTV has been prepared to inform the visual assessment, as presented in **Figure 16-P4A-1: Part 4a Galley Water Treatment Works Zone of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features) in PEI Report Volume 3**. The methodology used to produce the ZTV is set out within **Appendix 16-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 4**.
- 16.11.17 The ZTV indicates that theoretical visibility of the CO₂ storage tank, which represents the tallest proposed structure within the WTW, will be limited in close proximity to the Proposed Development, with visibility occurring primarily from higher or more open areas of the surrounding landscape. Variations in local landform result in visibility, particularly to the south-west where more extensive views are available, while lower-lying areas and those enclosed by landform or built form show little or no theoretical visibility. Large woodland blocks, particularly to the east and south-east, prevent visibility beyond the areas of woodland.
- 16.11.18 Field survey has found that visibility of the Proposed Development is considerably more restricted, with many views, particularly those to the south-west, partially or entirely obscured by localised vegetation, field boundaries, roadside planting, intervening landform, and built form. Consequently, visibility from most receptors will be limited and generally confined to isolated short sections where boundary vegetation or local topography opens sufficiently to allow views.

Assessment of Effects and Significance

- 16.11.19 This section provides the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects, including determining the level of significance, for Part 4a (Abstraction, Storage and Treatment) of the Proposed Development. Where

applicable, the requirement for additional mitigation measures and/or monitoring is identified to avoid, prevent, reduce, or if possible offset, any identified significant adverse effects on the environment.

Landscape Assessment

16.11.20 The assessments of landscape effects are presented in the following tables:

- a. **Table 16-36:** Landscape Sensitivity Assessment;
- b. **Table 16-37:** Assessment of landscape effects – National; and
- c. **Table 16-38:** Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local.

Table 16-36: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Natural England National Character Areas			
NCA 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands	Medium	The gently undulating plateau, historic parklands and designed landscapes such as Stowe, Wimpole, and Wrest Park, together with the river valleys of the Great Ouse and Nene and associated wetlands, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The presence of ancient woodlands, remnant deer parks, and post-industrial landscapes with restored waterbodies further increases susceptibility in parts. The influence of major transport corridors, settlement clusters along road and rail routes, and existing urban development lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
Aylesbury Vale District Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 5.2: Ouzel Valley	High	The flat valley landform, the River Ouzel, and the Grand Union Canal with its associated historic meadows, neutral grassland, and habitats are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of nearby urban development at Milton Keynes, major transport routes such as the A4146, and the Stoke Hammond Bypass lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	High
LCA 5.3: Ouzel Valley Lower Slopes	Medium	The gently sloping valley sides and open rural character are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of nearby urban development at Milton Keynes and traffic along the A4146 lessens the susceptibility. Overall,	Medium

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
		susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	

Table 16-37: Assessment of landscape effects – National

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
NCA 88: Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing agricultural operations, major transport routes, rail corridors and restored mineral workings, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. The removal of localised areas of grassland to facilitate the construction of elements associated with the proposed Galley Water Treatment Works including CO₂ storage tanks, water storage area, pipeline route and abstraction weir, will have a very slight alteration on key characteristics of the NCA as a whole. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the Proposed Development will marginally increase views of industrial structures including lighting within the NCA. The operational Galley Water Treatment Works site including the CO₂ storage tanks, water storage area, pipeline route, abstraction weir and associated infrastructure will be viewed in context with the existing major transport routes and rail corridors resulting in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. Impacts are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts for Operation Year 15 are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Table 16-38: Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Aylesbury Vale District Council¹⁰ & Buckinghamshire County Council Landscape Character Areas	
LCA 5.2: Ouzel Valley	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the A4146 Road, primarily affecting occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. The removal of localised areas of grassland to facilitate the construction of the proposed Galley Water Treatment Works including CO₂ storage tanks, pipeline route and abstraction weir and the water storage area at the edge of the LCA and in the adjacent LCA will have a very slight alteration on key characteristics of the LCA as a whole. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a low-lying valley landscape characterised by a patchwork of arable and pastoral fields. Construction compounds will be located within or adjacent to previously disturbed ground where hedgerows, and scattered trees will help to contain visibility. The presence of existing overhead lines, wooden poles, and transport infrastructure further reduces their influence and geographical extent of change perceived. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)

¹⁰ Aylesbury Vale District Council, along with Chiltern, South Bucks, Wycombe District Councils, and Buckinghamshire County Council, was abolished on April 1, 2020, and merged to become the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council.

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the Proposed Development will marginally increase views of structures within the Galley Water Treatment Works including CO₂ storage tanks, pipeline route and abstraction weir within the LCA and the presence of the water storage area at the edge of the LCA and in the adjacent LCA. The operational development, including lighting will be viewed in context with the existing overhead lines, wooden poles, and transport infrastructure resulting in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the LCA. Land used for construction of the pipeline will be reinstated to farmland, although vegetation lost during the construction stage will be immature at this stage. Impacts for Operation Year 1 are assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1 although reinstated planting will have established. Impacts for Operation Year 15 are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
LCA 5.3: Ouzel Valley Lower Slopes	

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the A4146 Road, primarily affecting occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. The removal of localised areas of grassland to facilitate the construction of the proposed Galley Water Treatment Works including water storage area will have a very slight alteration on key characteristics of the LCA as a whole. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a gently sloping agricultural landscape characterised by arable fields, scattered woodland, and shelterbelts. Construction compounds will be located within or adjacent to previously disturbed ground where hedgerows, small woodland blocks, and subtle variations in topography will help to contain visibility. The presence of existing overhead lines, wooden poles, and transport infrastructure further reduce their influence and geographical extent of change perceived. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, the Proposed Development will marginally increase views of industrial structures within the adjacent LCA including the presence of water storage area and associated infrastructure within LCA 5.3. Vegetation lost during the construction stage will be immature at this stage. The operational development, including lighting will be viewed in context with the existing overhead lines, wooden poles, and transport infrastructure, resulting in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the LCA. Impacts for Operation Year 1 are assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Operation (Year 15) Landscape effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1 although reinstated planting will have established. Impacts for Operation Year 15 are assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Visual Assessment

- 16.11.21 Potential visual effects of the Proposed Development in comparison with the future baseline visual context are considered for the representative viewpoints. The assessments contained within **Table 16-39** should be read in conjunction with **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3** which illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint.

Table 16-39: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint 25: PRoW off the A4146 and Galley Lane Roundabout		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRoW with near-distance views across the enclosed arable field. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view, resulting in a medium susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium	Medium
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant associated with the proposed Galley Water Treatment Works will be largely screened by the intervening vegetation and continuous hedgerows in the middle ground. Only the very upper parts of taller construction plant and limited movement may be intermittently visible above the hedge line, extending across a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. Where visible, the works will be viewed in the context of existing infrastructure and activity along the adjacent A4146, including vehicle movement and street lighting columns visible above the boundary hedgerow line, which will reduce the degree of contrast. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 1 During operation, the proposed Galley Water Treatment Works will result in a marginal increase in views of industrial structures within the view. The operational development will be perceived within the context of the existing infrastructure and activity along the adjacent A4146, with only the uppermost part of the tallest structures, including the CO ₂ storage tanks visible above the hedge line in the middle ground. The majority of structures associated with the proposed Galley Water Treatment Works including the water storage area will not be visible due to intervening landform, vegetation and woodland blocks in middle ground of the view.		Minor adverse (not significant)

The magnitude of impact at operation is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			
Operation Year 15 Effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			Minor adverse (not significant)
Viewpoint 26: PRoW Junction at Mill Lane and Farm Access Track			
Visual susceptibility to change		Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRoW. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the view, resulting in a medium susceptibility. When combined with the overall low value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.		Low	Medium
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction Construction activity associated with the proposed Galley WTW will largely be screened by intervening landform, vegetation and woodland blocks in background of the view. Only the very upper parts of taller construction plant and limited movement may be intermittently visible above the vegetation, extending across a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. Construction operations, including the presence of construction lighting will be seen in the context of other detracting features in the view, including overhead lines and wooden poles in the foreground and middle ground, which reduces the degree of contrast. Construction activity associated with the proposed Galley Water Treatment Works will not be visible due to intervening landform, vegetation and woodland blocks in background of the view. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 1 During operation, the proposed CO ₂ storage tank within the Galley Water Treatment Works will result in a marginal increase in views of industrial structures within the view. The uppermost part of the structure will be			Minor adverse (not significant)

visible above the boundary vegetation in the background. The majority of structures associated with the Galley Water Treatment Works including the water storage area including bunds will not be visible from this location due to intervening landform, vegetation and woodland blocks in background of the view. The magnitude of impact at operation is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation Year 15 Effects broadly as described for Operation Year 1. Impacts are assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Additional Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring

- 16.11.22 No additional mitigation, enhancement, or monitoring measures are proposed, as all landscape and visual effects have been assessed as not significant.

Summary

- 16.11.23 No significant adverse landscape and visual effects have been identified for any representative viewpoints during construction or operation for Part 4a. Therefore, no additional mitigation is necessary.

Part 4b: Pipeline to an Existing Underground Reservoir near Luton

16.12 Part 4b: Pipeline to an Existing Underground Reservoir near Luton

16.12.1 This section provides a focussed description of the environmental baseline, embedded environmental design, standards and management measures (if in addition to the aforementioned) and presents the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects in relation to landscape and visual impacts for Part 4b (Pipeline to an Existing Underground Reservoir near Luton) of the Proposed Development.

Baseline Conditions

16.12.2 This section describes the baseline environmental characteristics with specific reference to landscape and visual amenity.

Existing Baseline

Landscape Baseline

16.12.3 A summary of the relevant characteristics of the NCAs, LCTs / LCAs within the study area are described below and presented in **Figure 16-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.

National Character Areas

16.12.4 At the national level, the study area falls within parts of the following NCAs:

- a. NCA 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands (Ref. 19);
- b. NCA 90 Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge (Ref. 21); and
- c. NCA 110 Chilterns (Ref. 33).

16.12.5 The majority of the Proposed Development that lies within NCA 88 is located in Part 2 and as such the impact on the NCA as a result of the Proposed Development which is located within Part 4b and Part 2, has been assessed within Part 2, see section 16.9 of this chapter to prevent double assessment of NCA 88.

16.12.6 The baseline description and assessment for NCA 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands is included in Part 2, section 16.9.

16.12.7 NCA 90 is a narrow and elevated escarpment formed by the erosion-resistant Lower Greensand Group. The Greensand Ridge forms a wooded skyline with panoramic views across the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands and towards the Chilterns. Natural heritage value is supported by ancient woodland, heathland, and mire habitats, with key areas such as Maulden Wood and Houghton Conquest SSSI. Cultural value is reflected in historic parklands and iron-age remains, including hill forts and banks and ditches. Estate villages such as Woburn, Old Warden, and Southill exhibit distinctive character and contribute to the historic landscape. Recreational

value is supported by the Ridge's varied landform, scenic views, and access to semi-natural habitats. While major road and rail corridors intersect the Ridge, perceptual qualities remain high across much of the landscape. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value is considered to be high.

16.12.8 NCA 110 is a chalk plateau landscape incised by branching valleys and defined to the north-west by a prominent escarpment offering panoramic views across adjacent lowland vales. The landscape is underpinned by a large chalk aquifer supporting chalk streams, springs, and the River Thames. Natural heritage value is reinforced by extensive ancient woodland on clay-with-flint deposits, including designated sites such as the Chilterns NL, Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Hartslock Wood SAC. Cultural value is enhanced by historic villages, commons, and traditional building materials including flint and thatch. Recreational value is supported by access to river corridors such as the Thames and a widespread rights-of-way network. Scenic qualities are enhanced by panoramic views from the Chiltern Ridge and enclosed vistas within valleys, sunken lanes, and woodlands. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the NCA is considered to be very high.

Local Landscape Character Areas

16.12.9 At the local level, landscape character is identified by:

- a. Milton Keynes Council (2022) Milton Keynes Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 30);
- b. Aylesbury Vale District Council & Buckinghamshire County Council (2008) Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 32); and
- c. Central Bedfordshire Council (2024) Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 34).

Milton Keynes Landscape Character Assessment

16.12.10 The Milton Keynes Landscape Character Assessment includes LCT which are then subdivided into LCA, the descriptions of which are included below.

16.12.11 LCA 6a Brickhill Wooded Greensand Ridge is a prominent escarpment rising steeply from low ground to a wooded plateau, characterised by strong landform, extensive tree cover and long views across the surrounding landscape. Natural heritage value is supported by broadleaved, mixed and coniferous woodland, including areas of ancient and replanted woodland, together with pasture fields enclosed by mature hedgerow trees on the lower slopes. Cultural value is reflected in the traditional settlement at Little Brickhill, the use of Greensand stone in historic buildings, and heritage features on the plateau such as the Grade II* listed Church of All Saints. Scenic qualities are defined by panoramic views from the open upper slopes towards Milton Keynes, contrasting with

a more enclosed wooded character on the plateau. Recreational value is strong, with access provided by PRoW network and the Milton Keynes Boundary Walk. Perceptual qualities are generally peaceful and rural, though locally affected by the A5 and Bow Brickhill Road. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be high.

Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment

16.12.12 The majority of the Proposed Development that lies within LCA 5.3 Ouzel Valley Lower Slopes is located in Part 4a, section 16.11 and as such the impact on the LCA as a result of the Proposed Development which is located within Part 4b and Part 4a, has been assessed within Part 4a, section 16.11 of this chapter to prevent double counting of impacts.

16.12.13 LCA 6.1 Brickhills Scarp is characterised by a dramatic steep scarp with a mix of deciduous and coniferous woodland and a predominance of pasture. Natural heritage value is supported by areas of heathland, acid and neutral grassland, and fen habitats that contribute to ecological diversity. Cultural value is provided by the historic settlement of Great Brickhill, with distinctive sandstone buildings and associated parkland that enhance sense of place. Scenic value is linked to vantage points on the scarp offering long-distance views across the surrounding landscape. Perceptual qualities are generally rural and tranquil, though locally affected by glimpses of trains on the West Coast Main Line. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be high.

Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment

16.12.14 LCA 5A Eaton Bray Clay Vale is a large-scale, low-lying, and open landscape underlain by Gault Clay and Lower Chalk geology, cut by the Ouzel Brook and minor tributaries of the River Ouzel. The landscape is characterised by an intensive agricultural pattern, with large arable fields and pockets of pasture. Natural heritage value is supported by pockets of grassland, traditional orchards around Totternhoe and Eaton Bray and wetland habitats associated with the River Ouzel. Cultural value is reflected in the medieval field pattern, ridge and furrow pasture, and moated sites associated with historic settlement. Scenic qualities are defined by the flat, expansive character of the vale and framed views towards the chalk escarpment of Dunstable Downs and Totternhoe to the south, and the Clay Hills to the north. Recreational value is provided by a network of local public rights of way. Perceptual qualities are influenced by major transport corridors, pylons, mineral extraction and urban expansion from Leighton Buzzard and Houghton Regis, which locally reduce the rural character and tranquillity. Taking all of these factors into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be medium.

16.12.15 LCA 6A Woburn Greensand Ridge is an elevated landscape characterised by rolling arable land, pasture, extensive woodland blocks and historic

parklands. Natural heritage value is supported by extensive ancient and semi-natural woodland, heathland, open water, and grassland habitats designated as SSSI, including King's Wood Heath and Reach and Wavendon Heath Ponds. Cultural value is reinforced by the presence of Woburn Park and Abbey, with its historic designed landscape, red brick perimeter walls, and landmark churches such as St Mary's at Woburn. Other historic parks and estates, including Crawley Park and Rushmere Country Park, contribute further to the heritage interest of the area. Recreational value is supported by the Greensand Ridge Walk, the Milton Keynes Boundary Walk, and Woburn Safari Park, which provide public access and leisure opportunities. Scenic qualities are defined by the strong wooded context, panoramic views from open ridges, and the picturesque character of small villages such as Woburn and Aspley Guise. Perceptual qualities are generally rural and tranquil, though locally affected by the M1, A5, and areas of mineral extraction. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be high.

16.12.16 LCA 8A Toddington-Hockliffe Clay Hills is a landscape of connected hills characterised by predominantly medium-scale mixed farmland. Natural heritage value is supported by areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland such as Bushycommon Wood, Home Wood and Grove Wood, together with grassland and marshland habitats of ecological importance, including Dropshort Marsh and Tebworth Marsh SSIs. Cultural value is reinforced by the ridge and furrow pasture, and the historic parkland at Battlesden Park and Hockliffe Grange. Scenic qualities are defined by the elevated rolling landform and panoramic views across the adjacent Clay Vales to the Chiltern Hills. Recreational value is provided by a network of public rights of way, including a section of the Icknield Way Trail, offering access to the wider countryside. Perceptual qualities are generally rural and are locally diluted in parts by the M1, A5 and A5120 corridors and urban fringe influences from Toddington and Leighton Buzzard. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be medium.

16.12.17 LCA 9A Dunstable Downs Chalk Escarpment is a large-scale, prominent chalk scarp forming part of the Chilterns National Landscape. Natural heritage value is high, supported by extensive areas of unimproved chalk grassland designated as the Dunstable and Whipsnade Downs SSSI, together with belts of beech woodland and scrub that contribute to biodiversity and landscape diversity. Cultural value is reinforced by the area's rich archaeological heritage, including the Five Knolls burial mound, pillow mounds and sunken ways, as well as the distinctive White Lion chalk figure that serves as a landmark feature. Recreational value is significant, with Dunstable Downs Country Park, the Icknield Way Trail, and the Chiltern Way providing an extensive network of public access. Scenic qualities are defined by the dramatic, elevated landform, open ridgelines and panoramic views westward across the foothills and Clay Vale to the

Greensand Ridge beyond. Perceptual qualities are characterised by openness and tranquilly, though locally influenced by visible pylons and development associated with Whipsnade Zoo. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be very high.

16.12.18 LCA 9E South Dunstable Chalk Escarpment is a pronounced, steep-sided chalk escarpment with a uniform slope and straight profile, forming a backdrop to the southern edge of Dunstable. Natural heritage value is supported by Blow's Downs SSSI, a nationally important area of unimproved chalk grassland supporting notable plant species and contributing strongly to biodiversity. Recreational value is reinforced by extensive network of Public Rights of Way and open access land at Blow's Downs providing opportunities for walking and informal recreation. Scenic qualities are defined by the dramatic landform, steep open slopes and panoramic views across Dunstable and Luton. Perceptual qualities are semi-rural yet influenced by adjacent urban development, road corridors and pylons that cross the base and ridgeline of the scarp. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be medium.

16.12.19 LCA 10A Totternhoe-Dunstable Downs Rolling Farmland is a gently rolling chalk landscape forming an intermediate shelf between the Totternhoe and Dunstable Downs escarpments. Natural heritage value is supported by species-rich chalk grassland at Totternhoe Chalk Quarry SSSI, scattered deciduous copses, and limited pastoral land, although much of the area is intensively farmed arable land with minimal woodland cover. Cultural value is expressed through archaeological features including the Maiden Bower hillfort and Totternhoe Knolls motte-and-bailey, historic green lanes, and the long continuity of mineral extraction that has shaped parts of the landscape. Scenic qualities are characterised by open views across the Eaton Bray Clay Vale and towards the chalk escarpments, as well as the striking presence of features such as the White Lion chalk carving. Perceptual qualities are generally open and exposed with a rural character, though locally diminished by quarry edges, road corridors, the London Gliding Club, and the visible suburban and industrial fringe of Dunstable and Houghton Regis. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be medium.

16.12.20 LCA 11A Whipsnade Chalk Dipslope forms part of the chalk dipslope extending east from the Dunstable Downs Escarpment and lies within the Chilterns National Landscape. The landscape is characterised by broad ridges and dry combe valleys, with extensive arable farmland, areas of ancient woodland, and a varied sense of enclosure shaped by landform, vegetation, and settlement pattern. Natural heritage value is high, supported by extensive ancient and mixed woodlands such as Whipsnade Heath, Dedmansey Wood and Mason's Plantation, together with areas of pasture and hedgerows that contribute to biodiversity interest. Cultural

value is reinforced by the strong Chiltern vernacular evident in the historic villages. Recreational value is supported by the surrounding network of narrow rural lanes and public rights of way. Scenic qualities are defined by the rolling landform of broad ridges and dry combe valleys, with panoramic views from higher ridges. Perceptual qualities are generally rural and tranquil, though locally influenced by communication mast and busy road corridors. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be high.

16.12.21 LCA 11B Caddington - Slip End Chalk Dipslope forms part of the chalk dipslope extending from the South Dunstable Escarpment, with part of the area lying within the Chilterns National Landscape. The landscape is characterised by undulating landform, large arable fields and limited hedgerow structure. Natural heritage value is supported by ancient semi-natural woodland blocks such as Badgerdell Wood, Castlecroft Wood, Folly Wood and Stanner's Wood, which provide biodiversity interest. Cultural value is expressed through the historic core of Caddington centred on the village green and church, and by the Scheduled deserted medieval village at Zouches Farm, which contributes to the area's archaeological interest. Scenic qualities are defined by the broad plateau and subtle valleys, with long views across open farmland towards Luton. Perceptual qualities are influenced by the proximity of Dunstable and Luton, lighting, road traffic and pylons, which introduce an urban fringe character in parts. Nonetheless, the north-west of the area retains a rural character with extensive farmland and woodland. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be high.

16.12.22 LCA 12B Ver Chalk Valley is a predominantly dry chalk valley containing the source and headwaters of the River Ver within its southern extent and lies within the Chilterns National Landscape. Natural heritage value is supported by the undeveloped valley landform and surviving hedgerow network, which provide ecological connectivity across arable and pasture fields. Recreational value is supported by public rights of way, including part of the Ver Valley Walk, providing access along and across the valley. Scenic qualities are defined by the shallow, open valley sides, the narrow valley floor, and views framed by the surrounding chalk ridgelines. Perceptual qualities are influenced by the presence of the A5183 corridor, lighting, pylons, and light-industrial development, which introduce urban characteristics. Taking all of these factors into account, the landscape value of the LCA is considered to be high.

Visual Baseline

16.12.23 This section describes the visual baseline with reference to the visual receptors and representative viewpoints identified within the study area through a review of ZTVs, fieldwork surveys and consultation.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Analysis

- 16.12.24 In order to identify locations with potential to have views of the Proposed Development, the following ZTV has been produced to inform the visual assessment, **Figure P4B-1: Part 4b Pipeline Corridor Zone of Theoretical Visibility (With Surface Features) (Sheets 1 to 4)** in PEI Report **Volume 3**. The methodology used to produce the ZTV is set out within **Appendix 16-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 4**.
- 16.12.25 The ZTVs show that there will be theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from large parts of the study area, owing to the influence of elevated landforms and the absence of major topographic barriers that would otherwise restrict longer distance visibility.
- 16.12.26 Field survey has found that actual visibility will be substantially lower, as the ZTV does not account for localised screening provided by small woodland blocks and boundary hedgerows with mature trees located further from the boundaries of the Part 4b, and variations in landform. Across much of the study area, these features will reduce visibility to isolated and intermittent sections of the route where gaps in vegetation or localised topographic high points allow.

Representative Viewpoints

- 16.12.27 Through consultation with the relevant stakeholders, as part of the EIA Scoping process, detailed in **Appendix 16-PD-1** in PEI Report **Volume 4**, a total of 32 viewpoints, six of which lie within Part 4b, were chosen to represent the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area.
- 16.12.28 The representative viewpoints have been selected to illustrate the typical range of views of the Proposed Development from within the study area as experienced from recreational users and PRoW users. These representative viewpoints are described in **Table 16-40**, and their location illustrated on **Figure 16-P1A-3**, **Figure 16-P1B-2**, and **Figure 16-P2,3&4-2** in PEI Report **Volume 3** and presented on **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3**.
- 16.12.29 The full list of all potential viewpoints originally considered can be found in **Appendix 16-PD-3** in PEI Report **Volume 4**.

Table 16-40: Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
27	PRoW off Farm Fox Road	Recreational	A view looking south-west from a PRoW accessed via a wooden structure set behind a woodland block adjacent to the stable yards at the Fox Farm Equestrian. The foreground comprises overgrown vegetation, with a dense hedgerow to the left screening much of the view. To the front, an open field is visible, bounded by hedgerows and trees. In the middle ground, gently rolling farmland rises towards a ridgeline defined by scattered trees and hedgerows, which restricts longer-distance visibility. An attractive rural view with scenic interest and likely to be appreciated for its visual qualities. Overall, a high value view.
28	PRoW at Edge of Arable Land	Recreational	A view looking east from a PRoW at the edge of arable land with cultivated field in the immediate foreground. In the middle ground to the northeast, gently rolling farmland rises towards a ridgeline interspersed with hedgerows and scattered trees that restrict longer-distance views. To the west, a block of woodland forms a vegetated edge, further containing the view in this direction. To the north, the upper structure of a distant wind turbine is visible, with the lower section screened by intervening woodland and field boundary vegetation, while the blade tips break the skyline. A rural view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a medium value view.
29	PRoW on Elevated Ground near Eaton Bray	Recreational	A view looking south-west from a PRoW on elevated ground providing panoramic views. The foreground comprises grassland with scattered shrub vegetation along the slope and its edge, partially enclosing the foreground and framing the outward view. The middle ground is defined by a lowland agricultural landscape characterised by open regular-shaped fields bounded by hedgerows, linear tree belts, and woodland blocks. Residential properties and scattered farmsteads along the northern edges of Eaton Bray is visible, together with a network of local roads showing intermittent vehicular movement. Pylons and associated overhead lines are visible to the south and

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
			west, generally set against the landform, while to the west a distant wind turbine is visible, with its upper structure breaking the skyline. Long-distance visibility is generally curtailed by the rising landform in the background of the view. An elevated rural view likely to be appreciated by at a local level. Overall, a high value view.
30	PRoW off Dunstable Downs Viewpoint	Recreational	A view looking west from a PRoW off the Dunstable Downs Viewpoint, lying within the Chilterns National Landscape, on elevated ground providing panoramic views, with mown grassland and areas of scrub along the slope edge in the immediate foreground. The middle ground extends across a regular-shaped grassed airfield with visible runway markings, clusters of aircraft, and buildings associated with the London Gliding Club (Dunstable Downs Airfield). Beyond the airfield, the wider landscape comprises open agricultural fields interspersed with hedgerows, scattered trees, and woodland blocks. Settlement features are present, including scattered residential properties and farmsteads within Totternhoe and Eaton Bray, together with a network of local roads showing intermittent vehicular movement. Wooden poles, pylons, and associated overhead lines are also visible in the middle ground, generally sitting against the landform. Long-distance visibility is generally curtailed by the rising landform in the background of the view. The upper parts of distant wind turbines to the northwest are visible, breaking the skyline. An open view likely to be visited in the National Landscape and appreciated by residents or others at a national level. A very high value view.
31	PRoW off Beacon Road	Recreational	A view looking north-west from a PRoW off Beacon Road crossing open arable farmland, with the immediate foreground comprising cultivated ground. The middle ground consists of gently undulating agricultural land bounded by hedgerows, scattered trees, and woodland blocks that define the patchwork of farmland. The background is defined by a continuous belt of woodland and tree

Viewpoint ID	Name and Location	Receptor Type	Baseline view and value
			cover along the horizon, limiting longer-distance visibility. The upper parts of pylons and associated overhead lines are visible, with lower sections screened by intervening landform and vegetation, partly breaking the skyline. An attractive, open rural view likely to be appreciated at a local level. Overall, a high value view.
32	PRoW off Ivinghoe Beacon Viewpoint	Recreational	A view looking north-east from a PRoW off the Ivinghoe Beacon Viewpoint, lying within the Chilterns National Landscape, on elevated ground providing panoramic views, with the immediate foreground comprises grassland along the slope edge. The middle ground extends across a broad agricultural landscape characterised by open arable fields interspersed with hedgerows, scattered trees, and occasional woodland blocks. Settlement features are present, including scattered residential properties and farmsteads within Ivinghoe and Ivinghoe Aston, together with a network of local roads showing intermittent vehicular movement. In the background, a moving wind turbine blade is visible breaking the skyline, while pylons and associated overhead lines are present but generally sit against the landform. To the east, the chalk hillside figure of the White Lion at Whipsnade Zoo is visible on the far slope. Long-distance visibility is generally curtailed by the rising landform in the background of the view. An open view likely to be visited in the National Landscape and appreciated by residents or others at a national level. A very high value view.

Future Baseline

16.12.30 As part of the future baseline scenario in the absence of the Proposed Development, it is anticipated that small amounts of development within existing settlement boundaries will have been constructed, but the general landscape character and features will remain in a similar condition as they are now. The wider study area will continue to be influenced by the presence of existing urban edges, major transport corridors and industrial infrastructure.

Environmental Design, Standards and Management

16.12.31 There are no further embedded environmental design, standards and/or management measures that are specific to Part 4b (Pipeline to Underground Reservoir near Luton) of the Proposed Development.

Assessment of Effects and Significance

16.12.32 This section provides the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects, including determining the level of significance, for Part 4b (Pipeline to Underground Reservoir near Luton) of the Proposed Development. Where applicable, the requirement for additional mitigation measures and/or monitoring is identified to avoid, prevent, reduce, or if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment.

Landscape Assessment

16.12.33 The assessments of landscape effects are presented in the following tables:

- a. **Table 16-41:** Landscape Sensitivity Assessment;
- b. **Table 16-42:** Assessment of landscape effects – National; and
- c. **Table 16-43:** Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local.

Table 16-41: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Natural England National Character Areas			
NCA 90 Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge	High	The wooded escarpment of the Greensand Ridge, together with its parklands, ancient woodlands, and semi-natural habitats such as lowland heath and mire, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The elevated landform of the ridge, long panoramic views, and rich historic and ecological features, including Iron Age hillforts, ridge and furrow, and estate landscapes such as Woburn, further increase susceptibility in parts. The presence of major road and rail infrastructure, as well as settlement along the dip slopes and valleys, lessens the susceptibility in parts. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	High
NCA 110 Chilterns	Very high	The chalk escarpment and wooded lowland forming part of the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC, together with extensive areas of ancient woodland, chalk streams, and associated historic features, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The enclosed valley landform and panoramic views from the ridge contribute to the scenic value of the landscape, further increasing its susceptibility to change. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be very high.	Very high
Milton Keynes Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 6a: Brickhill Wooded Greensand Ridge	High	The steep escarpment landform and extensive woodland cover including areas of ancient and replanted ancient woodland, are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. Panoramic views from the open slopes further increase susceptibility in parts. The influence of existing transport corridors slightly lessens the susceptibility. Overall,	High

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
		susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	
Aylesbury Vale District Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 6.1: Brickhills Scarp	High	The steep scarp, predominance of pasture, and areas of mixed woodland, heathland, and grassland are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The presence of historic parkland at Great Brickhill, traditional sandstone buildings, and the availability of long-distance views from the scarp further increase susceptibility. The influence of distant urban development and intermittent train movement on the West Coast Main Line lessens the susceptibility in parts. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	High
Central Bedfordshire District Council's Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 6A: Woburn Greensand Ridge	High	The rolling elevated landform of the Greensand Ridge, extensive areas of ancient and mixed woodland, and the designed parkland landscapes of Woburn Abbey and Crawley Park are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of existing infrastructure including the M1 and A5 corridors, and mineral extraction sites lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	High
LCA 8A: Toddington-Hockliffe Clay Hills	Medium	The rolling hills, field patterns with ridge and furrow, and presence of ancient woodlands and the Grade II listed Battlesden Park are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of major transport routes including the M1, A5, A5120 and A4012, and urban fringe influences from Leighton Buzzard and Toddington lessen the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
LCA 5A: Eaton Bray Clay Vale	Medium	The flat and low-lying vale landform, with open character, and presence of historic features including ridge and furrow and moated sites are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of major transport corridors, pylons, active and restored mineral workings, and nearby urban extensions around Leighton Buzzard and Houghton Regis lessens the susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
LCA 9A: Dunstable Downs Chalk Escarpment	Very high	The steep chalk scarp and areas of unimproved chalk grassland designated as the Dunstable and Whipsnade Downs SSSI, together with the open elevated ridgeline offering long-ranging views across the Clay Vale and limited existing development, are attributes which offer very limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The natural character and recreational value associated with Dunstable Downs Country Park, and heritage features such as the Five Knolls burial mound and the White Lion chalk figure further increase susceptibility. The influence of existing pylons and recreational uses, such as Whipsnade Zoo and the Dunstable Downs Visitor Centre, slightly lessens the susceptibility in parts. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be very high.	Very high
LCA 9E: South Dunstable Chalk Escarpment	Medium	The pronounced chalk escarpment, open ridgeline, and unimproved chalk grassland at Blow's Downs SSSI are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The exposed nature of the upper slopes, together with long-ranging views across Dunstable and Luton further increases susceptibility. The influence of the M1, A5065, pylons, and settlement encroachment along the lower slopes lessens the susceptibility in parts. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium
LCA 10A: Totternhoe-	Medium	The gently rolling chalk foothills, the prominent Totternhoe escarpment, and the presence of Scheduled Monuments such as Maiden Bower and Totternhoe	Medium

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity Assessment		
	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Dunstable Downs Rolling Farmland		Knolls, together with species-rich unimproved chalk grassland at Totternhoe Chalk Quarry SSSI, are attributes that offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of existing mineral extraction areas with exposed chalk cuttings, transport corridors including the A505 and B489, and activity associated with the London Gliding Club, lessens susceptibility. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	
LCA 11A: Whipsnade Chalk Dipslope	High	The elevated chalk plateau and large areas of ancient woodland are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The rural character, association with the Chilterns National Landscape, and the presence of historic villages such as Whipsnade and Studham further increase susceptibility. The influence of existing infrastructure, including quarries, communication masts, and localised industrial and recreational uses such as Whipsnade Zoo, lessens the susceptibility in parts. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	High
LCA 11B Caddington: Slip End Chalk Dipslope	High	The broad plateau landform, open arable fields, and remnant ancient woodlands such as Badgerdell Wood and Stanner's Wood are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of existing transport corridors, including the M1, and the Dunstable urban edge lessen susceptibility in parts. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	High
LCA 12B: Ver Chalk Valley	High	The shallow-sloping valley sides, open undeveloped landform, and the presence of the headwaters of the River Ver are attributes which offer limited opportunities to accommodate the Proposed Development. The influence of the A5183 corridor, scattered light-industrial and agricultural development, the presence of pylons, and proximity to Dunstable lessen susceptibility in parts. Overall, susceptibility to change arising from the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	High

Table 16-42: Assessment of landscape effects – National

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
NCA 90: Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing major roads, railways, and communication infrastructure, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
NCA 110: Chilterns	
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the NCA. Construction activity, including lighting, will be viewed in the context of existing major roads and communication infrastructure, thereby reducing the perception of change to any of the key characteristics within the NCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception and tranquillity of the NCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long-term temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, land associated with the pipeline works will be restored and reinstated planting and grassland will be beginning to establish.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Natural England National Character Areas (National)	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
The Proposed Development during operation will result in a very slight alteration over a very limited area. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 15) During operation Year 15, land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. Reinstated planting and grassland on land associated with the pipeline works will be established, resulting in no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)

Table 16-43: Assessment of Landscape Effects – Local

Local Landscape Character Areas	
Milton Keynes Council's Landscape Character Areas	
LCA 6a: Brickhill Wooded Greensand Ridge	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within an escarpment landscape characterised by steep wooded slopes, pasture and arable fields. The surrounding woodland blocks and field	Negligible adverse (not significant)

boundaries will provide a degree of visual containment, while existing transport corridors will further reduce the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment	
LCA 6.1: Brickhills Scarp	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within scarp landscape characterised by steep wooded slopes, mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland, and enclosed pasture. The surrounding parkland, wooded slopes, and scarp topography will provide a degree of visual containment, while glimpsed movement from passing trains will further reduce the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Central Bedfordshire District Council's Landscape Character Areas	
LCA 6A: Woburn Greensand Ridge	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within elevated landscape characterised by rolling arable land and extensive woodland blocks. The surrounding historic parkland and wooded ridge will provide a degree of visual containment, while existing quarries and nearby transport corridors will further reduce the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
LCA 8A: Toddington-Hockliffe Clay Hills	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation.	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a gently rolling agricultural landscape. The surrounding small woodland blocks, field boundaries and local variations in topography, will provide a degree of visual containment, while existing quarries and nearby roads, parkland, and settlement edges will further reduce the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	
LCA 5A: Eaton Bray Clay Vale	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a large-scale agricultural landscape defined by open arable fields. The surrounding small woodland blocks, field boundaries and local variations in topography, will provide a degree of visual containment, while existing pylons, transport corridors, quarry workings, and settlement edges will further reduce the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration over a small area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
LCA 9A: Dunstable Downs Chalk Escarpment	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect

Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. However, sections of the route where trenchless construction methods are employed will avoid mature vegetation particularly around Dunstable Downs Country Park along the alignment. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within large-scale open chalk escarpment landscape defined by a mosaic of chalk grassland and woodland, and expansive panoramic views. While the openness of the scarp allows for a high degree of visibility, the influence of existing features such as pylons and development associated with Whipsnade Zoo, visitor facilities at Dunstable Downs, and the London Gliding Club will further reduce the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration over a limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, land associated with the pipeline works will be restored and reinstated planting and grassland will be beginning to establish. The Proposed Development during operation will result in a very slight alteration over a very limited area. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) During operation Year 15, land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. Reinstated planting and grassland on land associated with the pipeline works will be established, resulting in no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)

LCA 9E: South Dunstable Chalk Escarpment	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within an exposed chalk escarpment landscape characterised by an open ridgeline and unimproved chalk grassland. The surrounding small woodland cover, hedgerow and topographic variation, will provide a degree of visual containment, while existing infrastructure such as pylons, major roads, and settlement edges will further reduce the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 1) During operation, land associated with the pipeline works will be restored and reinstated planting and grassland will be beginning to establish. The Proposed Development during operation will result in a very slight alteration over a very limited area. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) During operation Year 15, land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. Reinstated planting and grassland on land associated with the pipeline works will be established, resulting in no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)

LCA 10A: Totternhoe-Dunstable Downs Rolling Farmland	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a gently rolling chalk landscape characterised by large arable fields, variable hedgerow boundaries, and the influence of chalk extraction. Construction activity will result in a direct, very slight alteration over a very limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
LCA 11A: Whipsnade Chalk Dipslope	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. However, sections of the route where trenchless construction methods are employed will avoid mature vegetation particularly around Dunstable Downs Country Park along the alignment. Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within an elevated agricultural landscape defined by broad ridges, dry combe valleys, and mixed woodland blocks.	Minor adverse (not significant)

The surrounding woodland edges, local variations in slope, woodland edges, and established hedgerow structure will provide a degree of visual containment, while the influence of existing features such as communication masts, industrial storage areas, and main roads will further reduce the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration over a limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, land associated with the pipeline works will be restored and reinstated planting and grassland will be beginning to establish. The Proposed Development during operation will result in a very slight alteration over a very limited area. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) During operation Year 15, land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. Reinstated planting and grassland on land associated with the pipeline works will be established, resulting in no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)
LCA 11B Caddington: Slip End Chalk Dipslope	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. However, sections of the route where trenchless construction methods are employed will avoid mature vegetation particularly where the alignment passes near ancient woodland.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within an open chalk plateau landscape defined by gently undulating landform, large arable fields and limited hedgerow structure. Despite the open field pattern, the presence of existing infrastructure such as pylons, transport corridors, and nearby settlement edges will further reduce the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration over a limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, land associated with the pipeline works will be restored and reinstated planting and grassland will be beginning to establish. The Proposed Development during operation will result in a very slight alteration over a very limited area. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) During operation Year 15, land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. Reinstated planting and grassland on land associated with the pipeline works will be established, resulting in no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)
LCA 12B: Ver Chalk Valley	
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect	Likely Significance of Effect
Construction Phase Construction activity will result in the direct introduction of movement, machinery and construction working areas within the LCA. Localised vegetation clearance will be required along the pipeline route, primarily affecting sections of improved grassland and occasional field boundaries or hedgerows, resulting in a small-scale and reversible loss of vegetation. However, sections of the route, particularly along the A5183 road where trenchless construction methods are employed will avoid vegetation along the road, further reducing the potential for perceptible change.	Minor adverse (not significant)

Construction activities, including the presence of construction lighting, will occur within a chalk valley landscape characterised by open valley sides and mixed arable fields. Despite the openness of the landscape, the presence of existing features such as major transport infrastructure, pylons, and dispersed development already introduces movement and urban influence, which will further reduce the geographical extent of change perceived across the LCA. Construction activity will result in a direct, slight alteration over a limited area without altering the overall perception of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, temporary and reversible, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation (Year 1) During operation, land associated with the pipeline works will be restored and reinstated planting and grassland will be beginning to establish. The Proposed Development during operation will result in a very slight alteration over a very limited area. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and reversible, which results in a negligible adverse (not significant) effect.	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Operation (Year 15) During operation Year 15, land associated with the Proposed Development will be restored to baseline conditions. Reinstated planting and grassland on land associated with the pipeline works will be established, resulting in no change, long term and permanent, which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)

Visual Assessment

16.12.34 Potential visual effects of the Proposed Development in comparison with the future baseline visual context are considered for the representative viewpoints. The assessments contained within **Table 16-44** should be read in conjunction with **Figure 16-VP-1** through to **Figure 16-VP-32** in PEI Report **Volume 3** which illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint.

Table 16-44 Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint 27: PRoW near Fox Farm Equestrian		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRoW, with medium distance views across arable land. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the rural view, resulting in a medium susceptibility. When combined with the overall high value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	High	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction The construction activity associated with the proposed Pipeline to Underground Reservoir near Luton will be visible within the pasture fields that occupy the foreground and extend into the middle ground of the view, due to the relatively open views across the wider landscape. The construction activity will comprise the majority of the horizontal extent of the view. The removal of pasture and localised sections of hedgerow will result in sections of construction activity being visible in the background of the view. Due to the curtailed longer distance views from intervening vegetation and landform in the background, the works will be apparent in the open part of the view. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a large geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1 During Operation Year 1, the completed pipeline works will result in minor changes to the pasture in the foreground and middle ground of the view. The land associated with the pipeline works will be reinstated, with grassland and hedgerow planting beginning to establish. However, vegetation will be immature at this stage. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a large geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 15		No change (not significant)

Proposed reinstatement of pasture and mitigation will be established to baseline levels and will result in no impacts on visual amenity. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be no change, long term and permanent which results in no change (not significant).		
Viewpoint 28: PRoW at Edge of Arable Land		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRoW, with medium distance views across arable land. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the rural view, resulting in a medium susceptibility. When combined with the overall medium value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.	Medium	Medium
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the proposed Pipeline to Underground Reservoir near Luton will be visible within a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. This will include the field enclosure within the foreground and will extend across the arable fields in the middle ground. Visibility will be increased as a result of hedgerow removal to facilitate construction. The nature of this activity will not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and will be seen in the context of other detracting features in the view, including wind turbine, overhead lines and wooden poles in the middle and background, which reduces the reduce the degree of contrast. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a large geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 1 During Operation Year 1, the completed pipeline works will result in minor changes to the arable field in the middle ground of the view. The land associated with the pipeline works will be reinstated, with hedgerow planting beginning to establish. However, vegetation will be immature at this stage. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a large geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.		Minor adverse (not significant)

Operation Year 15 Proposed reinstatement of arable field and mitigation will be established to baseline levels and will result in no impacts on visual amenity. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be no change, long term and permanent which results in no change (not significant).		No change (not significant)
Viewpoint 29: PRow on Elevated Ground near Eaton Bray		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRow, with medium-distance panoramic views across the agricultural landscape and wider settled edges. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the elevated panoramic view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall high value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be high.	High	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction Construction activity associated with proposed Pipeline to Underground Reservoir near Luton will be visible across a broad extent of the panoramic view, extending through the middle ground within mainly arable field. Hedgerow and tree planting boundary planting will be removed to facilitate construction. This will extend activity across a broader horizontal extent of the view. The nature of this activity will not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and will be within the context of movement in the view, including vehicles along the local road network, and other detracting features including wind turbines, pylons and overhead lines, which reduces the degree of contrast. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a large geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.		Moderate adverse (significant)
Operation Year 1 During Operation Year 1, the completed pipeline works will result in minor changes to the arable field in the middle ground of the view. The land associated with the pipeline works will be reinstated, with hedgerow and tree planting beginning to establish. However, vegetation will be immature and will not provide screening at this stage.		Minor adverse (not significant)

The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a large geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			
Operation Year 15 Proposed reinstatement of arable field and mitigation will be established to baseline levels and will result in no impacts on visual amenity. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be no change, long term and permanent which results in no change (not significant).			No change (not significant)
Viewpoint 30: PRoW off Dunstable Downs Viewpoint			
Visual susceptibility to change		Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRoW and visitors to the National Landscape, with medium distance panoramic views across the open agricultural landscape and the adjacent airfield. Recreational users and visitors are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the elevated, expansive view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall very high value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be very high.		Very high	Very high
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction Construction activity associated with proposed Pipeline to Underground Reservoir near Luton will be intermittently visible in the middle ground through breaks in vegetation to the southwest of the receptor, extending across small portions of the panoramic view. The activity will extend into the background of the view within the mixed agricultural field enclosures. Parts of this section of the pipeline route will include trenchless methods to avoid mature woodland in Dunstable Downs, therefore minimising vegetation removal and reducing the works visible in the view. Construction activity associated with the temporary micro-tunnel pits and the construction access route will be clearly visible in the middle ground of the view. The nature of this activity will be viewed in the context of existing detracting features within the wider view including airfield, wind turbines, pylons and overhead lines, which slightly reduces the degree of contrast. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.			Moderate adverse (significant)

Operation Year 1 During Operation Year 1, the completed pipeline works will result in minor changes to the mixed agricultural field in the middle ground of the view. The land associated with the pipeline works will be reinstated, with shrub and woodland planting beginning to establish. However, vegetation will be immature and will provide no noticeable improvement to the view. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a small geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.			Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 15 Proposed reinstatement of the mixed agricultural field and mitigation will be established to baseline levels and will result in no impacts on visual amenity. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be no change, long term and permanent which results in a no change (not significant).			No change (not significant)
Viewpoint 31: PRoW off Beacon Road			
Visual susceptibility to change		Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRoW, with medium distance views across open arable farmland. Recreational users are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the rural view, resulting in a medium susceptibility. When combined with the overall high value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be medium.		High	High
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect			Significance of Effect
Construction Construction activity associated with the proposed Pipeline to Underground Reservoir near Luton will be visible within a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. This will include the field enclosure within the foreground and will extend across the arable field in the middle ground. Hedgerow and tree planting boundary planting will be removed to facilitate construction. This will extend construction activity across a larger horizontal extent of the view, however, will not be dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape and will be within the context of movement and detracting features including pylons and overhead lines, which reduces the degree of contrast.			Moderate adverse (significant)

The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be medium, over a large geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a moderate adverse (significant) effect.	
Operation Year 1 During Operation Year 1, the completed pipeline works will result in minor changes to the arable field in the foreground and middle ground of the view. The land associated with the pipeline works will be reinstated, with hedgerow and tree planting beginning to establish. However, vegetation will be immature and will not provide screening at this stage. The magnitude of impact at Operation Year 1 is assessed to be low, over a large geographical extent, long term and permanent, resulting in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	Minor adverse (not significant)
Operation Year 15 Proposed reinstatement of the arable field and mitigation will be established to baseline levels and will result in no impacts on visual amenity. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be no change, long term and permanent which results in a no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)

Viewpoint 32: PRow off Ivinghoe Beacon Viewpoint		
Visual susceptibility to change	Value of view	Sensitivity of receptor
Receptors include users of the PRow and visitors to the National Landscape, with medium distance panoramic views across the open agricultural landscape. Recreational users and visitors are typically engaged in activity that involves appreciation of the elevated view, resulting in a high susceptibility. When combined with the overall very high value, the overall receptor sensitivity with respect to the Proposed Development is considered to be very high.	Very high	Very high
Size / scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility of Effect		Significance of Effect
Construction During construction, the construction activity associated with the proposed Pipeline to Underground Reservoir near Luton will be largely screened from view by intervening landform and layered vegetation, which curtails longer distance visibility beyond the middle ground.		Minor adverse (not significant)

Within the more open parts of the view, only very limited glimpses of construction activity may be perceptible through occasional breaks in vegetations. However, these will not appear dissimilar to existing agricultural practices across this landscape. The works will also be seen in the context of existing features such as wind turbines, pylons and overhead lines, which reduces the degree of contrast. The magnitude of impact at construction is assessed to be very low, over a small geographical extent, long-term and temporary, which results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	
Operation Year 1 and Year 15 During Operation Year 1 and Year 15, there would be no change in the view due to the distance of the proposed pipeline works and the intervening landform, resulting in no impact on visual amenity. The magnitude of impact at operation is assessed to be no change, long term and permanent which results in no change (not significant).	No change (not significant)

Additional Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring

- 16.12.35 Significant adverse visual effects have been identified at five representative viewpoints during construction as a result of the close distance to the Proposed Development and the scale of construction operations. No additional mitigation has been identified to date to reduce the assessed impacts during construction. This will be reviewed for the assessment reported in the ES.

Summary

- 16.12.36 **Table 16-45** summarises the significant residual visual effects of the Proposed Development, following the implementation of any identified additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring. No significant adverse landscape effects have been identified.

Table 16-45: Summary of significant residual effects – Part 4b

Description of impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Nature of effect / geographic scale	Magnitude of impact	Initial classification of effect (with embedded control)	Additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring	Residual effect significance
<i>Construction Phase</i>						
Viewpoint 27: PRoW near Fox Farm Equestrian	High	Long-term temporary noticeable change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage, but will be reviewed for the ES.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 29: PRoW on Elevated Ground near Eaton Bray	High	Long-term temporary noticeable change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage, but will be reviewed for the ES.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 30: PRoW off Dunstable Downs Viewpoint	Very High	Long-term temporary noticeable change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage, but will be reviewed for the ES.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Viewpoint 31: PRoW off Beacon Road	High	Long-term temporary noticeable change to the	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)	No additional mitigation identified at this stage, but will be	Moderate adverse (significant)

Description of impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Nature of effect / geographic scale	Magnitude of impact	Initial classification of effect (with embedded control)	Additional mitigation, enhancement and/or monitoring	Residual effect significance
		composition of the view			reviewed for the ES.	

16.13 Combined Effects between Proposed Development Parts

16.13.1 This section provides a review of the above findings of the individual Parts of the Proposed Development, to understand and interpret the potential combined effects on shared landscape and visual receptors that may be of greater significance when compared to individual effects arising from one of the six Parts of the Proposed Development. Where combined effects are identified, these are considered additively and qualitatively using professional judgement.

16.13.2 As further explained in **Chapter 6: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology** in PEI Report **Volume 2**, the approach undertaken for this assessment is summarised in the following steps:

- a. Step 1: Review and identification of shared landscape and visual receptors from assessments undertaken for each technical chapter for interfacing Parts of the Proposed Development; and
- b. Step 2: Assessment of combined effects for any shared landscape and visual receptors identified under Step 1.

16.13.3 Landscape receptors which are located within overlapping study areas between individual Parts of the Proposed Development have been highlighted above in the landscape baseline section for both Parts. For representative viewpoints where there are views of both Parts of the Proposed Development, both Parts have been included in the assessment for that viewpoint as presented in this chapter.

Part 1a and Part 1b Cumulative Effects

Step 1: Screening, review and identification of shared landscape and visual receptors

16.13.4 **Table 16-46** reviews the landscape and visual receptors to consider the potential for a combined effect to occur across Parts 1a and 1b of the Proposed Development. For NCA 97 Arden, the impact presented in this chapter considers the combined impacts of Parts 1a and 1b. Therefore, combined effects that the NCA might experience is already set out within Part 1a of this chapter.

Table 16-46: Potential for combined effects between Parts 1a and 1b

Landscape and Visual receptors	Potential for combined effects
Landscape receptors	There are a number of shared landscape receptors where Parts 1a and 1b of the Proposed Development interface between study areas. There is therefore a potential for Parts 1a and 1b of the Proposed Development to result in a combined in-

Landscape and Visual receptors	Potential for combined effects
	direct effect beyond those already identified for these Parts in isolation as potential pathways for combined effects exist.
Visual receptors	There are two viewpoint locations were Parts 1a and 1b of the Proposed Development interface between study areas. There is no potential for Parts 1a and 1b of the Proposed Development to result in a combined effect beyond those already identified for these Parts in isolation as a result of intervening vegetation and lack of intervisibility.

Step 2: Source-pathway-assets identification

16.13.5 The assessment of combined effects described in this section considers the embedded, control and management measures, and mitigation measures identified earlier within this PEI Report chapter.

Summary of potential combined effects on Part 1a and Part 1b

16.13.6 **Table 16-47** provides a summary of the potential combined effects review for Parts 1a and 1b of the Proposed Development.

Table 16-47: Summary of potential combined effects between Parts 1a and 1b

Landscape receptors	Potential combined effect?	Significance of combined effects
NCA / LCT / LCA	Yes	Significance of effect is no greater than those reported individually for each Part of the Proposed Development.

Part 1b and Part 2 Cumulative Effects

Step 1: Screening, review and identification of shared landscape and visual receptors

16.13.7 **Table 16-48** reviews the relevant landscape and visual receptors to consider the potential for a combined effect to occur across Parts 1b and 2 of the Proposed Development. For Viewpoint 8, the impact presented in this chapter considers the combined impacts of Parts 1b and 2. Therefore, combined effects that Viewpoint 8 might experience is already set out within Part 2 of this chapter. There are no further representative viewpoints that have the potential for a combined effect to occur across Parts 1b and 2 of the Proposed Development.

Table 16-48: Potential for combined effects between Parts 1b and 2

Landscape and Visual receptors	Potential for combined effects
Landscape receptors	There are a number of shared designated sites where Parts 1b and 2 of the Proposed Development interface between study areas. There is therefore a potential for Parts 1b and 2 of the Proposed Development to result in a combined indirect effect beyond those already identified for these Parts in isolation as potential pathways for combined effects exist.

Step 2: Source-pathway-assets identification

16.13.8 The assessment of combined effects described in this section considers the embedded, control and management measures, and mitigation measures identified earlier within this PEI Report chapter.

Summary of potential combined effects on Part 1b and Part 2

16.13.9 **Table 16-49** provides a summary of the potential combined effects review for Parts 1b and 2 of the Proposed Development.

Table 16-49: Summary of potential combined effects between Parts 1b and 2

Landscape receptors	Potential combined effect?	Significance of combined effects
NCA / LCT / LCA	Yes	Significance of effect is no greater than those reported individually for each Part of the Proposed Development.

Part 2 and Part 3 Cumulative Effects**Step 1: Screening, review and identification of shared landscape and visual receptors**

16.13.10 **Table 16-50** reviews the landscape and visual receptors to consider the potential for a combined effect to occur across Parts 2 and 3 of the Proposed Development.

Table 16-50: Potential for combined effects between Parts 2 and 3

Landscape and Visual receptors	Potential for combined effects
Landscape receptors	There are a number of shared landscape receptors where Parts 2 and 3 of the Proposed Development interface between study areas. There is therefore a potential for Parts 2 and 3 of the Proposed Development to result in a combined effect beyond those already identified for these Parts in isolation as potential pathways for combined effects exist.

Landscape and Visual receptors	Potential for combined effects
Visual receptors	There is one viewpoint location where Parts 2 and 3 of the Proposed Development interface between study areas. There is no potential for Parts 2 and 3 of the Proposed Development to result in a combined effect beyond those already identified for these Parts in isolation as a result of intervening vegetation and lack of intervisibility.

Step 2: Source-pathway-assets identification

16.13.11 The assessment of combined effects described in this section considers the embedded, control and management measures, and mitigation measures identified earlier within this PEI Report chapter.

Summary of potential combined effects on Part 2 and Part 3

16.13.12 **Table 16-51** provides a summary of the potential combined effects review for Parts 2 and 3 of the Proposed Development.

Table 16-51: Summary of potential combined effects between Parts 2 and 3

Landscape receptors	Potential combined effect?	Significance of combined effects
NCA / LCT / LCA	Yes	Significance of effect is no greater than those reported individually for each Part of the Proposed Development.

Part 2 and Part 4a Cumulative Effects

Step 1: Screening, review and identification of shared landscape and visual receptors

16.13.13 **Table 16-52** reviews the landscape and visual receptors to consider the potential for a combined effect to occur across Parts 2 and 4a of the Proposed Development.

Table 16-52: Potential for combined effects between Parts 2 and 4a

Landscape and Visual receptors	Potential for combined effects
Landscape receptors	There are a number of shared landscape receptors where Parts 2 and 4a of the Proposed Development interface between study areas. There is therefore a potential for Parts 2 and 4a of the Proposed Development to result in a combined effect beyond those already identified for these Parts in isolation as potential pathways for combined effects exist.

Landscape and Visual receptors	Potential for combined effects
Visual receptors	There is no viewpoint location where Parts 2 and 4a of the Proposed Development interface between study areas. Therefore, there is no potential for Parts 2 and 4a of the Proposed Development to result in a combined effect beyond those already identified for these Parts in isolation.

Step 2: Source-pathway-assets identification

16.13.14 The assessment of combined effects described in this section considers the embedded, control and management measures, and mitigation measures identified earlier within this PEI Report chapter.

Summary of potential combined effects on Part 2 and Part 4a

16.13.15 **Table 16-53** provides a summary of the potential combined effects review for Parts 2 and 4a of the Proposed Development.

Table 16-53: Summary of potential combined effects between Parts 2 and 4a

Landscape receptors	Potential combined effect?	Significance of combined effects
NCA / LCT / LCA	Yes	Significance of effect is no greater than those reported individually for each Part of the Proposed Development.

Part 4a and Part 4b Cumulative Effects

Step 1: Screening, review and identification of shared landscape and visual receptors

16.13.16 **Table 16-54** reviews the landscape and visual receptors to consider the potential for a combined effect to occur across Parts 4a and 4b of the Proposed Development. For NCA 90 Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge and LCA 5.3 Ouzel Valley Lower Slopes, the impact presented in this chapter considers the combined impacts of Parts 4a and 4b. Therefore, combined effects that the NCA might experience is already set out within Part 4b of this chapter and combined effects that the LCA might experience is already set out within Part 4a of this chapter

Table 16-54: Potential for combined effects between Parts 4a and 4b

Landscape and Visual receptors	Potential for combined effects
Landscape receptors	There are a number of shared landscape receptors where Parts 4a and 4b of the Proposed Development interface between study areas. There is therefore a potential for Parts

Landscape and Visual receptors	Potential for combined effects
	4a and 4b of the Proposed Development to result in a combined effect beyond those already identified for these Parts in isolation as potential pathways for combined effects exist.
Visual receptors	There is no viewpoint location where Parts 4a and 4b of the Proposed Development interface between study areas. Therefore, there is no potential for Parts 4a and 4b of the Proposed Development to result in a combined effect beyond those already identified for these Parts in isolation.

Step 2: Source-pathway-assets identification

16.13.17 The assessment of combined effects described in this section considers the embedded, control and management measures, and mitigation measures identified earlier within this PEI Report chapter.

Summary of potential combined effects on Part 4a and Part 4b

16.13.18 **Table 16-55** provides a summary of the potential combined effects review for Parts 4a and 4b of the Proposed Development.

Table 16-55: Summary of potential combined effects between Parts 4a and 4b

Landscape receptors	Potential combined effect?	Significance of combined effects
NCA / LCT / LCA	Yes	Significance of effect is no greater than those reported individually for each Part of the Proposed Development.

16.14 Summary and Next Steps

16.14.1 The preliminary assessment of effects has identified several significant effects associated with the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Four significant adverse visual effects have been identified during operation Year 1; at Viewpoint 7: Roadside Gateway off Twenty One Oaks, Viewpoint 10 Coventry Canal Towpath, Eastern Edge of Hawkesbury Village, Viewpoint 13: Colehurst Lane adjacent to Grimes Bridge (no.26) over the Oxford Canal and Viewpoint 14: Burtons Bridge (no.71) along The Locks over the Oxford Canal. Impacts will reduce to not significant levels by operation Year 15 as a result of the establishment of reinstatement vegetation.

16.14.2 The information provided in this PEI Report is preliminary, with the final assessment of likely significant effects to be reported in the ES.

16.14.3 Winter viewpoint photography will capture the worst case views towards the Proposed Development and will be undertaken during 2026 when vegetation is without leaf. Given the time taken to incorporate this information into environmental assessment reporting, these have not been relied upon in this PEI Report chapter.

16.14.4 As the design progresses, an outline landscape design will be developed for the Proposed Development and will be provided with the DCO application, as part of the Outline LEMP.

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